



March 11, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Comments on H5952

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Housing Network of Rhode Island, our member agencies, and the low income Rhode Islanders we serve, I write to offer some comments on H5952, a bill that seeks to expand access to homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income buyers and populations who have been historically excluded or under-represented as homebuyers.

We are pleased to see housing remain such a high priority item in the House and appreciate the bill sponsor's creative thinking regarding addressing the barriers that homebuyers face in achieving the American Dream. Conceptually we are supportive of what is being proposed but have some concerns about the mechanisms being proposed and their ability to be executed and effective as drafted. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Whip Kazarian on refining the proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments of the concepts proposed in **H5952**. I am available to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at 401-721-5680 ext. 104 or mlodge@housingnetworkri.org.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melina Lodge".

Melina Lodge, Executive Director