



Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® & State-Wide MLS

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Casey  
Committee on House Municipal Gov. & Housing  
82 Smith Street,  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: H.5798 --- RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES**

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® strongly supports H.5798 and urges this committee to do so. I cannot fully express the gratitude for the overwhelming support that Speaker Shekarchi, Representative Speakman, and all who have contributed to the 2025 Housing Package have shown towards housing issues.

Homelessness continues to be a major crisis across the state – particularly as we saw this winter. RIAR proudly supports H.5798, which would create a standard provision in local zoning to permit more single-family housing using both vertical and horizontal construction density. By creating more residential units, this bill could expand opportunities for people who are experiencing financial hardship and homelessness to find housing.

Every new unit allows for the opportunity to be able to break the stalemate and backlog in the current housing market. It is imperative that we as a state find creative, innovative, and common-sense solutions to be able to house as many people as possible. Without leadership and legislation such as H.5798, we would be moving closer to not even providing for our own residents and children of the future generations.

For these reasons, we thank the leadership of all who have contributed to the 2025 Housing Package and urge the committee to favorably recommend Representative Speakman's bill, H.5798.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor J. Chasse  
Advocacy Manager  
Rhode Island Association of REALTORS®