April 9, 2025

Honorable Representative Stephen Casey
Chair, Housing and Municipal Government Committee

Dear Representative Casey and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for H5268.

LIFE Inc. is an agency that provides a variety of services for adults with disabilities, primarily in the East Bay and Providence County. One of our most important services lies in residential support. The ability to maintain and develop affordable, accessible housing in the state is a major priority for many of our participants and their families.

Currently, LIFE Inc. supports over 100 people, and a sizeable share live at home with their parents who are aging. While this works for many of them today, we routinely hear concerns from families about what the future will hold for their loved one in 5 or 10 years – will there be reasonable residential options for them when they are no longer around?

There are many exciting new options when it comes to residential services that those we support and their families are interested in. These are community based supportive living models that would allow for both the benefits of independence and autonomy and provide supportive safeguarding and guidance. We have examples of these models in RI today; Affordable, accessible apartments in Jamestown that one of our fellow agencies, Looking Upwards, is developing with SWAP Inc. LIFE Inc. has also been engaged with the SHRI Pine St. project, that leverages market rate and non-market rate apartments and overall creates many opportunities for wellness, employment and building true community.

This bill has the potential to allow for the expansion of these promising models across the state. As an agency that is committed to serving people with disabilities in a manner that they see fit, we know this expansion will be well received and will give people with disabilities and their families a sense of comfort knowing they can actively plan for the future.

Sincerely,

Liz Wiedenhofer
Executive Director
LIFE Inc.