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Representative Stephen M. Casey  
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Casey,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6162, introduced by Representatives Kislak, Slater, Ajello, and Biah to permit the City of Providence a one-year levy cap for fiscal year 2026 not to exceed eight percent (8%).

As a community member deeply invested in the well-being and progress of Providence, I believe it is crucial to allow the city flexibility to exceed the tax levy cap of 4% for the next fiscal year. The City has developed a responsible approach to minimize property tax increases, reduce City department expenses, and generate new revenue from multiple sources. The proposed levy increase is necessary to address the significant financial challenges that our city is facing.

The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) helps close persistent opportunity gaps among Providence youth by expanding access to and engagement in an ecosystem of high-quality out-of-school time learning environments. Having served 22,000 youth over the past 20 years, our adolescent participants experience positive change in their school-day attendance, learning engagement, and social interactions. This work would not be possible without the support of our City grant whose funds help to cover general operating costs so rarely supported by other grant sources.

Supporting H6162 is vital for ensuring that Providence can continue to meet its financial obligations and provide essential services to its residents. Allowing a one-year levy cap increase to 8% for fiscal year 2026 will help bridge the budget gap, maintain the city's momentum, and foster a thriving community.

All of us at PASA are sensitive to our local community and the impact of this bill on their household budgets. I ultimately support this time-limited approach because it allows the City to maintain services that our families count on and deserve. I urge you and your colleagues to consider the significant benefits this bill will bring to Providence and its residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Durham