

To Chair Casey, the members of the Committee on Municipal Government and Housing, and Rep. Blazejewski,

I'm writing again today to voice my **opposition to H 6162**, which would allow for housing tax increases that would present an undue burden to homeowners and renters, in an already difficult housing and rental market.

I'm a resident of the Smith Hill neighborhood, in House District 2.

I have been a renter in Providence for 7 years. In that time, I've already seen rents increase significantly as I look for apartments. In fact, from 2023 to 2024, the Providence metro area median rent price increased by over 16%, the **highest increase of any metro area in the country** ([according to the Providence Journal](#)). This drastic decrease in affordability also affects the rest of our state.

I and most of my friends are working young professionals in Providence or RI's other core cities. Between inflation, income stagnation, and especially increasing rents, it has become very difficult and expensive to live here in RI. In fact, I know multiple people who have been priced out of Providence and have been forced to move in with family, or even out of state. Not to mention, dreams of becoming homeowners someday seem far out of reach for most young people I know, due to increasing home prices and taxes.

Allowing municipalities to increase taxes even more would affect both homeowners and renters, as many landlords will choose or be forced to raise rents in response. Many small landlords or single-family homeowners are already under immense pressure from large corporate real estate companies to sell their homes. This bill would only contribute to the high prices that are already driving everyone from young renters to longtime homeowners out of our state. It would be a disservice to those who already live here in Rhode Island, and to future generations.

I sincerely hope to stay here in Rhode Island, and raise a family here. But increasing housing costs make it more and more difficult to imagine doing so. Please consider these points when voting on this bill.

Thank you.

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