

To Whom It May Concern  
House Bill #6162

I, Dominick Espinal, am a proud resident of Providence. I hold a B.A. in Justice Studies and Sociology, with continued education from FEMA, the World Health Organization (W.H.O), the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), and industries utilizing artificial intelligence. I am currently pursuing a second B.A. in Psychology, with plans to enter a Master of Social Work (MSW) program next year. My goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, specializing in depression, loneliness, and anxiety, particularly among adults.

With these credentials and intentions in mind, I submit this testimony not only on my own behalf but also for those in our community whose voices often go unheard or are not taken seriously.

The current Smiley administration has failed in its duty to adequately protect and serve the people of this city by failing to grasp and address the increasingly unmanageable cost of living. This failure has directly contributed to the growing mental anguish experienced by countless residents today.

We are living through a time of economic hardship. Unemployment remains high, artificial intelligence is beginning to replace traditional job roles, and wages are not keeping pace with inflation. This, compounded by a shrinking housing market and out-of-state buyers driving up property prices, is making it nearly impossible for native Rhode Islanders to find sustainable, affordable housing. These factors are not only economic but deeply personal and psychological, contributing to a growing crisis in mental health that must no longer be ignored.

This is a call for serious, empathetic, and informed action. The people of this city deserve better.

Sincerely,  
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