

**To:** House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing, RI General Assembly

**Re:** Support for H5375

**Date:** 4/22/25

Dear Chair Casey and members of the committee,

Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting the health and safety of Rhode Islanders. My name is Neyda DeJesus, and I am a proud homeowner, a coalition member of the Childhood Lead Action Project, and a community engagement specialist deeply involved in public health advocacy.

I support H5375 because I've experienced firsthand the dangers of lead in our drinking water. In 2024, I had to replace my private water pipeline after discovering it was contaminated with lead, which was a stressful experience. I can only imagine how overwhelming this process is for renters who rely on unresponsive landlords to take action.

As you may know, Rhode Island has received substantial federal funding to replace lead service lines, yet many tenants are still left behind due to existing barriers. This bill creates a fair solution by allowing tenants to initiate replacements when landlords are unresponsive. Lead exposure is a serious and irreversible health threat, especially for children, and we must remove obstacles that delay critical action.

Let's ensure that every family, regardless of their housing situation, has access to clean, safe drinking water. Tenants deserve a voice in protecting their health and that of their children.

Thank you for considering this important bill.

Sincerely,  
Neyda DeJesus