



March 9, 2026

Dear Chair Casey and Members House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing Committee

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) extends its strong support for the bills included in Speaker's 2026 Housing legislative program including: H8000, H8001, H8002, H8003, H8004, H8005, H8006 and H8007.

SACRI's mission is to advocate for policies and programs that improve the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and older adults with disabilities. Addressing housing challenges for these populations is a high priority for SACRI and we appreciate the significant efforts members of the legislature have been putting into finding solutions to our housing crisis.

The state's housing crisis impacts all segments of our population and is acutely felt by older adults and adults with disabilities with low incomes as noted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition which found that 45% of extremely RI low-income renter households were seniors. The housing crisis is both a social challenge as we attempt to address the supports needed by those who are unhoused including the several hundred RIer's age 65 and over and an economic issue for those facing the challenge of dealing with rent increases or inability to afford monthly housing costs.

The 2026 housing package includes bills to encourage developments such as allowing single staircases in small residential buildings and adaptive reuse of underutilized buildings as well as addressing our unhoused population by strengthening our state's homeless bill of rights.

SACRI applauds Speaker Shekarchi and the many sponsors of the 2026 Housing legislative package for their continued commitment and leadership in seeking solutions to our state's housing crisis.

Respectfully submitted,  
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SACRI