

Letter in Opposition to H8000 Relating to Property Homeless Bill of Rights

March 5, 2026

House Municipal Government and Housing Committee

Mahatma Gandhi is attributed with saying, “The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members of society.” Through that lens, Rhode Island society fails to adequately address the affordable housing crisis, and the resulting increase in homelessness in our State.

Currently, the Executive Office of Housing indicates on their website that there are:

1,514 state funded shelter beds.

The 2025 Point-in-time count reported:

2,373 people experiencing homeless in Rhode Island

That is a shortage of 859 shelter beds.

Where would the cities and towns of Rhode Island like these 859 people, (individuals and families) to reside?

This amended H-8000 bill becomes even more punitive and increases the ‘criminality’ of experiencing homelessness.

As an advocate for our homeless community, it is imperative that the evictions of encampments cease and desist until such time that the Governor and the General Assembly authorize and fund the Executive Office of Housing (EOH), to develop enough low-income housing to address the shortfall of available housing for 859 Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness.

As Rhode Islanders, we can do better!!!

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