

## **Dawn Huntley**

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**From:** Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 1:55 PM  
**To:** House Municipal Government and Housing Committee; June Speakman; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 8001

Chairman Casey and members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I write in support of HB #8001 which authorizes municipalities to make an emergency declaration under limited circumstances to allow for the construction and use of SAFE Units on a temporary basis which have specialized requirements and exemptions from the state fire and building codes.

According to AARP/Statista analysis of Census Bureau data, an estimated 238,083 older Americans age 55 and older experienced homelessness in 2023. According to Crossroads Rhode Island in 2023 they saw a 33 percent increase in seniors over the age of 65 experiencing homelessness.

This bill would make it easier for municipalities to create shelter for the homeless in times of need. I urge your support of HB #8001.

*Sandra Darling, AARP Advocacy Volunteer and Retired RN  
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