

Steven Sepe

From: Emma Kahn <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 8:27 AM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Support for House Bill H8005 (Parking Reform)

The Honorable Stephen Casey,

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for House Bill H8005 (Parking Reform)

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee:

As a resident of Providence and a scholar of housing policy at Brown University, I'm thrilled to voice my support for H8005, which would change parking requirements and provide flexibility that will allow more homes to be built. I also believe that small changes would make this bill effective, and request consideration for those outlined below.

Rhode Island faces a range of housing challenges. One challenge is excessive parking mandates imposed by local governments. Parking mandates for new homes and businesses are imposed regardless of the end user or location. Unfortunately, parking mandates can lead to higher costs for renters and homeowners, and often prevent new homes from being built.

This has been backed by ample evidence across the country: parking requirements drain money, reduce housing, and make our communities less safe.

Parking requirements can raise the rent by hundreds of dollars per month, regardless of whether people use the parking or not, and mandatory parking requirements don't take into account whether a new home is being built right by a bus stop, in a walkable community or in a community with street parking or shared parking arrangements nearby.

This is about giving developers the chance to decide for themselves how much parking they need. Ultimately, the end user and property owners should decide how much parking to build, based on what is needed in the community.

HB8005 takes an important step forward, but it does not do enough to reduce the impact parking requirements have on the cost and availability of new housing.

Removing parking mandates either entirely or for specific uses would allow home builders and property owners match need to demand.

Reducing excessive parking requirements is one way to help ensure that Rhode Islanders have a safe, dignified, and affordable place to call home.

Thank you,
Emma

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