



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 17, 2026

Representative Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
82 Smith St, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7564: An Act Relating To Towns And Cities -- Home-Fit Dwelling Unit

Dear Representative Casey:

I write to you in support of H7564: An Act Relating To Towns And Cities -- Home-Fit Dwelling Unit

This bill creates the home-fit dwelling units act to apply to all new construction of covered dwelling units to incorporate design features that provide safe and convenient use of to the greatest extent feasible, regardless of age or physical ability.

Not only is Rhode Island experiencing a housing supply shortage, but that shortage is exacerbated when considering the number of fully accessible units. Residents of Rhode Island with disabilities struggle find housing that truly meets their needs. And even for those who do manage to find accessible housing, visiting friends and family in older homes that are not retrofitted to accommodate mobility devices means that people with disabilities struggle to socialize outside of their home.

By requiring new housing to meet the American National Standards Institute's design provisions, we will create a baseline of housing units in the state that people with disabilities can access. Furthermore, by applying this to projects which receive state assistance or are developed on land owned by the state, the State of Rhode Island has the opportunity to set the example to private developers that not only is building fully accessible/visitable housing the right thing to do, but that it is also financially feasible and appealing to people of all abilities.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Rep. Tina Spears