

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

I write to you in **support** of HB #7564 which creates the "Home-fit Dwelling Units Act" and requires certain new housing developments in Rhode Island to include a percentage of units designed for accessibility.

This act applies to new housing developments with four or more units that either receive state financial assistance or are built on state-owned or quasi-state land. Older adults often face challenges with mobility, balance, and safe navigation of their homes. This bill directly supports aging-in-place and accessibility. By requiring a percentage of accessible units in state-supported developments, the bill increases availability of homes that older adults can safely live in without requiring costly renovations.

As Rhode Islanders age, we will need more housing that can allow older adults to age in place. This legislation will help to provide more choices for our seniors and those with disabilities. It is a great need in our State.

I urge you to fully support HB #7564 to help our ageing population.

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