

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

### **Support for H7564 – Home-Fit Dwelling Units Act**

Chair Casey and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), I write in support of **H7564**, which would establish the **Home-Fit Dwelling Units Act** requiring new construction of covered dwelling units to incorporate design features that allow safe and convenient use for people of all ages and physical abilities.

RICCF represents 44 community-based organizations that advocate for and serve children, youth, and families across Rhode Island. Our members provide behavioral health care, family support services, residential treatment, and programs that support children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Safe, stable housing is a critical foundation for family well-being. Homes that incorporate accessible and adaptable design features make it easier for families to remain safely housed as their needs change over time. Universal design elements—such as step-free entrances, wider doorways, and accessible bathrooms—can help families support children or caregivers with disabilities, allow older family members to remain safely at home, and reduce the risk of injuries that can lead to housing instability.

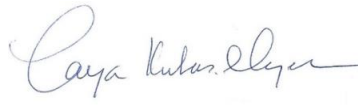
For many families, especially those caring for children with developmental, physical, or behavioral health needs, accessible housing can make the difference between maintaining stability in the community and facing unnecessary barriers in daily life.

By encouraging new housing to incorporate accessible design from the outset, the Home-Fit Dwelling Units Act helps ensure that Rhode Island's housing stock better reflects the needs of families across generations and abilities. These features are far more affordable when included during initial construction and can prevent costly retrofits later.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families respectfully urges the Committee to support **H7564**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to policies that strengthen Rhode Island families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tanja Kubas-Meyer".

Tanja Kubas-Meyer  
Executive Director