



Testimony of Matt Netto, AARP Rhode Island  
**In Support of House Bill 7568**  
House Municipal Government & Housing Committee  
March 17, 2026

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

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 7568 sponsored by Representative Cruz.

House Bill 7568 strengthens Rhode Island's Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code by expanding requirements for notification of housing code violations. Many older adults live in multi-unit housing where they rely on landlords or property managers for maintenance. This bill guarantees residents are directly notified when:

- There are safety hazards (e.g., heating issues, mold, accessibility problems).
- Repairs are legally required.
- Hearings or enforcement actions are scheduled.

House Bill 7568 promotes transparency for residents, especially those older adults who rely on clear communication about housing safety issues. Timely awareness of violations (like broken elevators, unsafe stairs, inadequate heat, or electrical problems) helps older residents take precautions or seek temporary help before the issue becomes dangerous. Receiving official notices empowers older adults to:

- Advocate for themselves.
- Document issues.
- Communicate with family, case managers, or social service agencies.
- Understand their rights in the enforcement process.

This bill supports safe and stable housing, which is a key factor in aging with dignity and independence. By ensuring tenants know when hearings or enforcement actions occur, older residents are less likely to be caught off guard by sudden repairs, access issues, or eviction risks related to code problems.

Rhode Island is experiencing a housing crisis, and it is weighing heavily on older adults who want to age in their own community. Indeed, AARP's 2023 Long Term Services and Supports Scorecard ranked Rhode Island 51<sup>st</sup>, or dead last, of all the states for the availability of housing for older adults. House Bill 7568 would provide transparency and stability for older residents. For this reason, AARP Rhode Island urges you to recommend passage on House Bill 7568. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Matt R Netto*

**Matt Netto**  
Associate State Director, AARP Rhode Island