



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 H7658: An Act Relating To Towns And Cities -- Housing Maintenance And Occupancy Code -- Notice Of Violations

Dear Representative Casey

I write to you in support of H7658: An Act Relating To Towns And Cities -- Housing Maintenance And Occupancy Code -- Notice Of Violations

This bill requires a housing code enforcement officer to give a copy of any housing code violation notice to all tenants of the building affected by a housing code violation along with any hearing dates scheduled for the violation.

As a government office, we receive countless calls and visits from constituents who live in substandard housing and feel they have no place to go. One of the worries that constituents have is whether their concerns will be validated, or whether the situation will devolve into a he-said-she-said between tenant and landlord. By providing residents with documentation attesting to the housing code violation, we establish a paper trail and empower tenants to use that to advocate for their right to a habitable living environment. Furthermore, by requiring that a physical copy of the violation notice be handed to tenants, we can ensure a direct communication pipeline between tenants and code enforcement.

Every resident of the State of Rhode Island deserves housing that is accessible, habitable, safe, and affordable. This bill pushes us in the right direction by putting guardrails in place to ensure tenants of substandard housing have a pathway to resolve longstanding habitability issues.

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. Cherie Cruz