



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 H8021: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- State Building Code -- Rhode Island Inclusive Home Design Act

Dear Representative Casey:

I write to you in support of H8021: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- State Building Code -- Rhode Island Inclusive Home Design Act.

This bill addresses any single-family construction, townhouse construction, and multi-family construction complying with the Standards for Visitable Units of the ANSI' Standards for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities.

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, this bill uplifts the importance of ANSI Standards for Type C, which covers visitability, ensuring that people with disabilities are able to access homes beyond their own. 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. Jennifer Stewart