

## Dawn Huntley

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**From:** Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:35 AM  
**To:** House Municipal Government and Housing Committee; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.; June Speakman  
**Subject:** House Bill #8021

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

I write to you in **support** of HB #8021 which requires most newly built homes in Rhode Island to have at least one floor that people with mobility challenges can access by including features like a step-free entry and other basic visitability design elements.

This aims to increase housing accessibility statewide, especially for aging adults and residents with disabilities.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill requires all new single-family homes, townhouses and multi-family buildings without elevators to include at least one "visitable" level.

Rhode Islanders are getting older and this requirement can offer more older adults and those with disabilities to age in place in a home that is livable and accessible.

I urge your support for HB #8021.

Sandra Darling, AARP Advocacy Volunteer  
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