



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

March 31, 2026

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

**RE: HOUSE BILL 7445 – AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- FAITH-BASED AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACT**

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns recognizes the importance of expanding affordable housing and appreciates the Legislature's efforts through the Faith-Based Affordable Housing Development Act. This legislation creates an opportunity for faith-based organizations to develop affordable and mixed-use housing on land they own, providing much-needed housing while offering community services and public-facing amenities.

At the same time, the League is mindful that these developments may have significant impacts on municipal infrastructure, public safety, and local planning responsibilities. While the Act streamlines approvals through by-right and ministerial processes and already includes provisions for steep slope and other environmental mitigation, we believe it is important for municipalities to retain practical oversight in key areas. Specifically, municipalities should have the ability to coordinate infrastructure needs to ensure that water, sewer, roads, schools, and emergency services can accommodate new development. Additionally, municipalities should be provided with timely information regarding proposed projects, enabling transparency and allowing local officials and abutters to stay informed.

To support municipal planning and service delivery, the League encourages the inclusion of reporting and coordination mechanisms. Such measures could provide municipalities with advance notice of projects, basic project data, and estimated service impacts, without impeding the streamlined, by-right intent of the Act.

The League continues to support efforts to expand affordable housing in Rhode Island and welcomes faith-based participation. At the same time, we advocate for measures that balance this important goal with the need for municipal oversight, ensuring safe, sustainable, and well-coordinated development in our communities.

Thank you for your attention and continued partnership in addressing housing needs across Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing