



**Executive Office of Housing**  
State of Rhode Island  
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor  
Providence, RI 02908

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Representative Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 8220

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Executive Office of Housing (“EOH”) appreciates the opportunity to respectfully submit this letter of opposition for House Bill 8220, which would create a state-run pilot program that provides low-barrier employment to individuals experiencing homelessness for community beautification and cleanup projects while connecting participants to supportive services.

This bill would require EOH to administer the program, submit a new annual report to the Governor and General Assembly, and apply for and accept applicable federal funds, grants, private donations, or other funding sources to support the program. EOH does not have the capacity or expertise to implement and oversee these requirements. Additionally, we already provide funding for homeless service providers to do this work. Our shelter program guidelines require service providers to provide case management services which include actively assisting in employment searches, securing job training opportunities, and provide guidance on job applications.

EOH would like to thank the Chairman and sponsor for the opportunity to share these concerns with the Committee and remains available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Deborah J. Goddard'.

Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
The Honorable Earl A. Read, III  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy