



Rachel M. Miller

Council President
Councilor – Ward 13

March 31, 2026

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

Chair Casey,

I write to you and your committee colleagues to strongly urge your support of House Bill H-7491, a bill that would authorize the City of Providence to issue \$25 million in bonds to support affordable multifamily housing projects. As you know, Providence is at the vanguard of the struggle against the housing affordability crisis affecting so many Rhode Islanders. While the city has increased housing production, removed administrative barriers, and implemented significant changes to state land use, zoning, and permitting law enacted in recent years, more can and must be done. More action requires more resources which the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, now dangerously underfunded, needs to increase the housing stock for low- and moderate-income individuals and households. This fund, by ordinance, is dedicated exclusively to affordable housing. H-7491 would provide those resources, replenishing the Trust Fund and preserving a reliable approach to affordable housing production.

As you also know, my colleagues and I are pursuing all available options to address the lack and cost of housing in Providence, a crisis we share a strong commitment to confronting. We strongly support the ongoing work of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which has committed approximately \$55 million toward the creation and preservation of 1,600 homes in Providence to date. An additional \$25 million devoted to affordable multifamily housing would build on that progress, helping projects move forward and supporting development that uses land wisely, aligns with our city's Comprehensive Plan, and advances the strategies outlined in the City Council Housing Crisis Task Force final report. Providence has demonstrated an ability to turn these investments into real housing, and continued progress in the city is essential to meeting the state's broader housing goals. Expanding the housing supply is a necessary part of that effort, and funding is a critical part of that effort. For these reasons, I again urge your support for H-7491. The progress made toward affordable, dignified housing for all depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Miller
Council President
Councilor – Ward 13

Providence City Council

Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903