

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Student Housing Landlord Licensing Requirement – H8363

Dear Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

My name is Dulcie Rutherford and I am the parent of a college student who currently holds a lease for off-campus housing for the 2027-2028 school year in Rhode Island. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendment on bill H8363 that all student housing landlords need to be licensed.

It is a myth that all college students “come from money” and that they can afford everything that comes with their education, including living expenses, whether they choose to live on or off campus. My family is not one of those that can afford added expenses which is why they will live off campus instead of in the dorms. The dorms are more expensive at this time, my child has to come home for all breaks and holidays, even if they don’t want to, and they don’t get to live there in the summer. If my child has an internship and/or job, takes summer classes, or if they just want to stay in the city and experience the independence that comes with off campus living, they should be able to do that without having to worry about not being able to afford an apartment or house because their landlord is being charged additional fees by the state and/or city simply because they provide student housing. This seems to be discriminatory.

I am respectfully asking that you take the time and consider the unintended consequences to the students who pay some or all of their own way and to other taxpayers if such fees and regulations are applied to student landlords which ultimately chases them out of RI. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your careful consideration of this issue before voting.

Respectfully,

Dulcie Rutherford