

**Dear Chairperson Casey and Members of the House Committee on  
Municipal Government and Housing,**

My name is Elizabeth , and I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill H8363. I am a registered Rhode Island voter and a junior at the University of Rhode Island. I currently live in off-campus housing in Narragansett and have already committed to a lease and paid deposits for the upcoming 2026-2027 academic year.

This bill poses a direct threat to my housing security and that of thousands of my peers. I urge you to consider the following points regarding the impact of this legislation:

- **Housing Necessity:** Rhode Island colleges **do not** have enough on-campus beds to house their entire student populations. Restricting off-campus rentals would leave students with nowhere to live, effectively creating a barrier to higher education in this state.
- **Economic Contribution:** Students are the backbone of the local economy during the "off-season." We support small businesses, restaurants, and shops throughout the fall and winter when tourism is at its lowest.
- **Property Utilization:** By renting off-campus, students ensure that properties which would otherwise sit vacant during the winter months remain productive, contributing to the local tax base and overall economic health of the town.
- **Discriminatory Impact:** H8363 unfairly targets college students as a specific group. As adults and contributing members of the community, we should not be treated as "second-class citizens" or have our housing rights restricted based solely on our status as students.

Instead of creating burdensome licensing and fees that discourage student housing, the General Assembly should focus on increasing housing availability for all residents. **This bill sends a clear message that students—and the economic support we provide—are not welcome in Rhode Island.**

I ask the committee to protect the rights of students and property owners by **voting no** on H8363.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Czaja  
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