

Dawn Huntley

From: John Doyle <johnhdoyle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 8:37 AM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.
Subject: OPPOSE H8363

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Dear Representative Casey,

My name is John Doyle, and I own a home at 89 Mettatuxet Road in Narragansett, RI I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that would allow municipalities to restrict student housing.

I am deeply concerned about the implications of this bill. It would give local municipalities the authority to limit who property owners can rent to, which opens the door to bias, discrimination, and a troubling precedent in housing policy. By targeting a specific group—college students—it unfairly restricts where they can live and treats them differently from other residents.

This legislation also enables towns to reshape community demographics by limiting student housing, which raises broader concerns about fairness and inclusion. Additionally, the proposed requirements around licensing, inspections, and fees would create unnecessary burdens for property owners, discouraging them from renting to students and potentially eliminating critical housing options.

Perhaps most concerning, this bill appears to create a pathway to bypass existing state laws that currently protect student rental arrangements. At a time when most colleges and universities do not have sufficient on-campus housing, this could leave tens of thousands of students without viable living options.

The impact would extend beyond students themselves, affecting families—many of whom are Rhode Island residents—who rely on accessible and affordable off-campus housing for their children.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and consider the broader consequences it would have on students, families, and housing fairness across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Doyle
89 Mettatuxet Road, Narragansett, RI