

Dear Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

My name is Lyana Bott-Cuevas, and I am a college student currently living in off-campus housing 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.

In reading the proposed amendment, I don't see anything that explains exactly what the requirements and terms are, but I can only imagine that it will result in landlords having to pay more in fees, licenses, and potentially fines, and I feel that it is a given that those costs will be passed on to us, the tenants. This is definitely something that I cannot afford, and it doesn't seem like something that is going to protect affordable housing which I keep hearing in the news is a very important topic here in RI. This proposed amendment seems to intend to hurt affordable housing, so this is very concerning to me, not just as a student, but as someone who may choose to stay in RI after I graduate. If I do, I will eventually purchase a house, and if there are less student landlords, that means that taxes will increase for everyone else. If that is the case, I will likely not plan to stay in RI.

I am very concerned that this proposal will have significant unintended consequences to students and other taxpayers, so I respectfully ask that you oppose this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lyana Bott-Cuevas

Johnson and Wales University