

Dear Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I am writing this letter as a parent of a student attending college in Rhode Island. I would like to express my opposition to the proposed amendment on bill H8363 that all student housing landlords need to be licensed.

It is clear to me and understandable that landlords will unfortunately have to pass on the added fees and fines related to these licenses to their student tenants which raises the costs across the board for the students and their families. Note, while attending college in Rhode Island, the families of these students regularly stay in your hotels, eat in your restaurants and shop in your stores which directly contributes to the economies of the locations where the schools are located. Off campus students, while residing in Rhode Island, also shop in your grocery stores, frequent barber shops, salons and other services which is also a direct infusion of revenue into the local economies. Levying these license fees/fines is punitive to the students and their families and will likely negatively impact our ability to continue to support the local communities where our students attend school. Student families have limited funds, that is just how it works.

Before you vote on this, please think about how this will negatively impact my child and my family, and most certainly the State of Rhode Island and it's local economies. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,
Marguerite Toohey

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