

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 8363 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns (RILCT) and our 39 member municipalities, we write to express our support for House Bill 8363, which would authorize municipalities to require private property owners to obtain a license to operate a dwelling unit as student housing.

This legislation provides municipalities with clear authority to regulate student housing in a way that promotes public safety, maintains neighborhood quality, and ensures compliance with applicable building and health standards. By allowing local governments to establish licensing, inspection, enforcement, and appeal procedures, House Bill 8363 gives cities and towns the tools needed to address challenges often associated with student housing, including overcrowding, noise, and property maintenance concerns.

Importantly, the bill preserves exemptions for dormitories, institution-owned housing, and subsidized units, ensuring that oversight is focused on private properties while respecting existing institutional and federal programs. The ability to license and inspect student housing also provides municipalities with a mechanism to protect both residents and neighborhoods, while offering potential revenue to support administration and enforcement.

The League appreciates the sponsor's attention to municipal concerns and the focus on balancing local oversight with housing needs. We believe House Bill 8363 is a practical, resident-focused, and municipal-friendly measure that supports our member communities in managing student housing effectively.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing