

H O U S I N G



N E T W O R K

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Stephen Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island State House,
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: Support for House Bills 8000-A & 8006-A

Dear Chair Casey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) and our statewide alliance of partners, we write in support of **H8000A and H8006A**

We are grateful to Speaker Shekarchi and bill sponsors for their continued leadership in addressing Rhode Island's housing crisis, and especially for their responsiveness to stakeholder feedback. The Sub A versions reflect important improvements, including clearer definitions, more precise applicability, and thoughtful technical refinements that will support effective implementation.

Rhode Island continues to face a severe shortage of affordable homes, with a gap of more than 23,000 units for extremely low-income renters. Addressing this challenge requires coordinated, system-level solutions that enable communities to build, preserve, and adapt housing more efficiently. **H8000A and H8006A** moves this work forward by supporting adaptive reuse and infill development to unlock new housing opportunities, incentivizes developers to advance housing production, and improves coordination and clarity in policy implementation related to encampments and the rights of unhoused Rhode Islanders.

We especially appreciate that the amendments are reflective of continued engagement with stakeholders and their feedback to ensure these policies align with existing housing programs and financing structures and are responsive to community need.

We thank you for your leadership and partnership, and we urge your support for this important package of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melina Lodge".

Melina Lodge, MCP
Executive Director