

Dear Chairperson

Thank you, Chairperson, for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'll be brief in voicing my support for H5257. Vouchers holders, housing advocates, and Rhode Islanders around the state are tired of showing up year after year to support this legislation. Rhode Islanders are suffering greatly from housing discrimination right now, as you've heard from others testifying today.

As a medical student at Brown University, I can attest that there are few things more important to a person's overall health and well-being than stable housing. Without access to stable affordable housing, physicians cannot begin to effectively treat patients and develop discharge plans for when they leave the hospital or clinic. Patients become distressed and their physical and mental conditions deteriorate when they do not have a safe place to live. I can't practice good medicine if my patient is unable to find a landlord willing to accept their housing voucher.

This legislation has languished in House committees for far too many years. Please don't kick this rock down the road again. Patients are suffering now. We can prescribe all the medications in the world, but we can't write a prescription for housing. Help medical professionals help Rhode Islanders live healthier lives. I urge you to send H5257 to the chamber floor for a vote as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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