

Dear House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing:

I support HB 7658 because it informs and empowers tenants of a building to know about housing code violations and any hearing dates to discuss the violations. Too often, tenants are left in the dark about the unsafe conditions that they knowingly or even unknowingly are enduring. Ensuring them of the health code violations allows them to take precautions and receive the healthcare that they need. Moreover, they can be present at hearing to serve as a reality check to excuses or lies that landlords may be making to deny or minimize the harms. This bill is also important because if made into law, tenants will have the ability to demonstrate the truth of code violations if they are evicted in a retaliatory manner for pointing out the code—plus entitle them monetary compensation for having to live in unsafe conditions for which they paid full rent.

I support HB 8021 on inclusive home design because new developments should be required to be accessible for wheelchairs and walkers. If this law is enacted, there will be more accessible housing for us, the able-bodied, when we inevitably age and must need greater accessibility. It will also make housing fairer and easier to anyone with a permanent or temporary disability.

I support HB 8027 because if a city has engaged in something unconstitutional—say restricting political speech—then the residents deserve to know such actions, first of all. But most importantly, it can prevent expensive, frivolous lawsuits that taxpayers end up paying for.

I am a Cranston resident and a homeowner. I support these bills because they are **commonsensical** and because they promote fairness, transparency, and equity.

Please support HB 7658, HB 8021, and HB 8027.

Sincerely,

Naoko Shibusawa