



March 2, 2026

Re: House Bill 7127, Article 6 Question 2 - Housing and Home Ownership

Dear Senators,

I am writing today in support of Article 6, Question 2 in the Governor's proposed budget. I urge the Committee to recommend increasing the proposed bond item to \$150 million to support affordable housing production and preservation for low and moderate income households.

Our church, Community Church of Providence, currently hosts a pop-up emergency warming center through Operation No One Dies. This year we have witnessed first hand the struggles of Rhode Island's unhoused neighbors.

In addition, we frequently receive calls from residents in search of affordable housing, eviction prevention, and rental assistance. Our staff also assists members of the congregation in the extremely challenging search for affordable housing. The increasing costs to rent and own homes in Rhode Island are staggering.

The stability and flourishing of our neighbors, families, workers, and our entire community depends on the availability of finding and maintaining stable housing. Safe housing becomes a foundation to other possibilities for physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this proposal..

Sincerely,

Rev. Sarah Reed Jay
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