

Testimony in Opposition to S2248: Duties of Utilities and Carriers

Barbara Walsh. 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

Date of Hearing: May 21, 2026

To: Chair DiPalma and the honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am not opposed to the concept of providing assistance to folks who need some relief from energy bills. But I do have questions/concerns about this bill. First, there is no mention of energy conservation usage – there are no parameters about the amount of energy used and which would still be eligible for the elimination of a large portion of their utility bill. No matter how much energy they use, they are only paying 3% (or 6%) of their income. Second, DHS already offers an energy assistance program for low-income residents. Should there be two separate programs? Should the two be merged? Third, it is not clear how income, and thus payments, would be reviewed for changes. Thank you.