

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Mary Pendergast <mpendergast@sistersofmercy.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:14 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS support of S2248

[You don't often get email from mpendergast@sistersofmercy.org. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Friends,

I am Mary Pendergast from the Sisters of Mercy and the RI Poor People's Campaign. I write in support of the Senate Bill 2248, known as the Percentage of Income Payment Plan. The moratorium on energy shutoffs is over. This week we saw a glimpse of the heat that is ahead. I urge you to vote for a just system, a percentage of income, in order to allow the most vulnerable among us avoid utility shutoffs.

Sincerely,

Mary Pendergast, RSM

Pawtucket

Sent from my iPad

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Elizabeth D <eadonohue5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2026 2:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Written Testimony PIPP S-2248

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**This is my written testimony in favor of passing PIPP S-2248 to be included for the record for the hearing on May 21, 2026.**

As a member of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Providence, I serve with a group of volunteers who work directly with neighbors in need. **I am writing to urge your support for Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) (S-2248)** because we are witnessing a dramatic and unsustainable rise in utility shutoff crises affecting families in Providence and across our state.

Within our limited geographic area alone (02904, 02908, 02909), the need for charitable assistance to prevent utility terminations has risen sharply over the past year. Since September 2025 we have seen over a 300% rise in just one year.

Last year, SVDP Rhode Island, with all of our Conference and Districts, helped 1,167 households with assistance totaling over \$326,000. Families are spending up to 41% of their income on utilities, leaving little left for rent, food, and other basic needs.

### Systemic Impact Deeper Concern:

The most critical issue facing many RI cities is housing stability. Yet in 2026, we have been forced to divert a significantly larger share of donations toward emergency utility payments instead of rent stabilization.

In other words, funds that should be keeping families housed are increasingly being used to prevent electricity shutoffs. This is not sustainable for families and puts a strain on our charitable funds trying to support them.

The passage of the Percent of Income Payment (PIPP) S-2248 would reduce utility shut-offs as well as serve to prevent homelessness.

**For this reason, we respectfully urge you to support PIPP legislation.**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth David  
Society of St. Vincent DePaul Volunteer

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Donna Walsh <dwalsh2@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 12:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB2248

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From Donna Walsh  
Charlestown,RI  
Member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Support for SB 2248

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2248, the Percentage of Income Payment Plan, also know as PIPP. As a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, I serve with a group of volunteers who work directly with neighbors in need.Calls to our helpline for assistance with utility bills has more than doubled since last year because Rhode Island has experienced three years of electricity rate increases and the end is not in sight.Our families are struggling to keep up spending up to 40% of their income on electricity.During the past year we helped 43 families with utility bills.In the last few days we have received nine calls from neighbors who have received shut off notices.Our Society has 24 conferences in R.I. and our year end records show that we have helped 1167 households with assistance totaling \$326,794.86 .These households live paycheck to paycheck even a single high energy bill can mean choosing between paying for heat or paying for food, medication ,or even rent. A PIPP Plan would provide much needed stability by capping utility bills at an affordable percentage of a household's Income, ensuring that families can keep their lights on as well as pay for other basic Needs.Eight other States have successfully implemented PIPP plans. These plans have reduced utility shut-offs, prevented homelessness, and improved payment consistency for utility providers. By adopting a similar model our State can protect vulnerable residents,including seniors on a fixed income, people with disabilities, and working families facing temporary financial hardship.

Access to electricity and heat is not a luxury—it is essential for health, safety, and economic stability.PIPP would promote fairness,reduce long-term arrearages, and help families avoid the devastating consequences of service disconnection.

Sent from my iPad

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Claire Dalidowitz <ckdalidowitz@snet.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 9:15 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lawson, Valarie J; Senate Finance; Sen. Gu, Victoria  
**Subject:** Senate bill S2248

You don't often get email from ckdalidowitz@snet.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Senator Lawson and Senate Finance Committee: Please support Senate bill S2248 and send to the floor to pass this session.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) is a tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for those living at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty level.

I am a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in the Charlestown Conference which serves those living in poverty. In the past 10 days, we have helped nine neighbors who received shut-off messages. People are making choices between paying rent and paying for utilities. Some are in debt to RI Energy for thousands of dollars. Is it fair that up to 41% of their income needs to go to utilities? Utility costs should make up 8-10% ([www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)) of gross monthly budget. Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's budget is through donations so it is not sustainable that we pay RI Energy for all the escalating bills.

Some of the serious repercussions of these shut offs are that without refrigeration, medicines like insulin can not be safely kept. Infant formulas are stored on windowsills rather than in the refrigerator. Most of the people we serve live in apartments that are heated with electricity. We are coming into summer so heating costs will decline but air conditioning is another electrical expense that is not paid by landlords. Both freezing temperatures and high temperatures put people at medical risk.

Consider that as people living in poverty need to make choices about rent, food, electricity or even car repair so they can work, without support the number of homeless people will increase. This includes people with children. We have just supported parents with six children who were on their way to homelessness.

Finally, PPL Corporation in Allentown, Pennsylvania is the parent company of our RI Energy. They have supported the PIPP program in their state. How can they not apply this to RI as well??

Please strongly consider bringing this forward to the floor for a vote.

Claire Dalidowitz  
36 Browning Drive  
Charlestown RI  
860-518-7435  
ckdalidowitz@snet.net

ps. I cannot make the Senate Finance Committee meeting on May 21. Please feel free to read my letter. Thank you.

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Carol Wilcox <c.wil@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 16, 2026 12:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S2248

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I'm writing to urge you to support this bill.

Utility rates are astronomical and push many people into homelessness. The costs of utilities, food, gas are absolutely crushing people and this bill that provides relief is sensible.

Thank you in advance for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,  
Carol Wilcox  
Hearts of Social Justice

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone