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From: Toni Akin <takin894@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 4:32 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support S2681

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May 6, 2026

Dear Senators,

I am writing to formally express my support of S2681 for the proposed rent subsidy measure. The intent of this bill is to assist residents and effectively combat high rental rates.

As a stakeholder within the housing sector, my commitment is deeply personal, rooted in my experience growing up in public housing. When I reached the age of majority, I was parentless and indigent, but was no longer on the lease. I faced immediate eviction proceedings and received an unconditional notice to quit served by the state marshall.

This challenging period of housing insecurity in my young adult life also motivated me to serve in my current role as Commissioner of Public Housing, where I continue to help families and students secure stabilized housing and educational opportunities, as they go hand-in-hand. In my experience, housing costs are primarily driven by taxes, utility expenses, insurance, upkeep and maintenance, along with high cost of contractor rates. I believe addressing those aggravating factors, while implementing local preference, expanding public housing offerings and adopting this subsidy program would be an effective way to address the housing crunch.

I believe we can achieve better results for our residents with this subsidy plan that addresses the root causes of housing costs, while ensuring housing stability with rental subsidization that would be available to everyone as needed.

Again, thank you for your service, and allowing my written testimony.

Best regards,

Toni Akin
Commissioner
Providence Housing Authority