



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon
Chair, Senate Housing and Municipal Government
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2269

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Members of the Committee:

HNRI is a statewide alliance of members and partners serving low-income Rhode Islanders, who share the vision that all Rhode Islanders live in safe, healthy, affordable homes in thriving communities. Our alliance includes 19 nonprofit housing developers who own and operate more than 7,500 rental homes for low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders, as well as organizations who provide support and other services to the more than 2,500 Rhode Islanders who are experiencing homelessness. I am writing to express support for S-2269 which mandates that housing code enforcement officers provide copies of violation notices to all tenants affected by the alleged violations, along with any scheduled hearing dates.

This legislation makes important, practical improvements to housing code enforcement by ensuring that tenants are directly informed of violations that affect their homes, including receiving copies of notices and information about any related hearings.

By increasing transparency and access to information, this bill helps ensure that tenants are not left unaware of conditions that impact their health, safety, and housing security. Clear communication is a critical component of a fair and effective housing system.

Additionally, establishing a defined timeframe for recorded notices provides greater clarity and consistency in enforcement, supporting both accountability and administrative efficiency.

We thank the honorable members of the Committee for consideration of my comments. As always, I am happy to answer any questions and can be reached at 401-721-5680 ext. 104 or mlodge@housingnetworkri.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melina Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melina Lodge, Executive Director