



May 6, 2025

The Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SUPPORT for S212 – Just Cause Eviction

Dear Chair LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Reclaim RI urges you to pass S212, the Just Cause Eviction bill. For the past three years, our organization has testified before this committee about the urgent need for stronger tenant protections. We are a grassroots organization fighting for working people across Rhode Island, and we have worked closely with tenants in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Cranston, West Warwick, and beyond, many of whom are your constituents. We have seen firsthand how housing instability is devastating Rhode Island families and communities.

The numbers are clear: Rhode Island's housing crisis is spiraling out of control. Our state saw a 35% increase in homelessness in just one year, the second-highest jump in the country. Over 24,000 evictions have been filed in Rhode Island since March 2020, displacing families, seniors, and low-income renters at alarming rates. But behind these statistics are real people, working people, who have done everything right yet are still being forced from their homes through no fault of their own.

Meanwhile, corporate landlords and private equity firms are buying up properties at record levels, driving rents beyond reach, and treating Rhode Island's housing stock like a profit machine rather than the foundation of stable communities. Just Cause Eviction is not a radical idea, it is a basic, common-sense protection that ensures tenants cannot be evicted without a valid reason. The vast majority of small landlords already operate this way. This bill simply prevents bad actors from arbitrarily displacing tenants for profit.

The housing crisis will not fix itself. The General Assembly has the opportunity and responsibility to take meaningful action. Passing S212 is not just necessary, it is urgent. Rhode Islanders need real protections, and this legislation is a critical step toward stabilizing housing, keeping families in their homes, and preventing further homelessness.

We urge you to stand with tenants and pass this bill without delay.

Sincerely,
Reclaim RI