



Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

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Executive Minister

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February 27th, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

re: support of Governor's FY2026 Budget, Article 5, Sections 4, 7, 10

Dear Chairman Abney:

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches urges adoption of Article 5, sections 4, 7, and 10, which would increase revenue to address Rhode Island's chronic housing crisis.

Christian scriptures are clear on their teachings regarding the excessive accumulation of wealth and the responsibility that those in positions of abundance have to the provision of the common good.

As a matter of faith, we are called to care for the least among us. So too, as a matter of good governance, provision for those on the margins of American society is an essential part of what it means to live in community with one another. The arbiter of the adequacy of our society is not so much in the success of the powerful, but in our care of those in greatest need.

The separation of moral considerations from our development of economic policy lies at the heart of the crisis we face today. Poverty is a feature, not a bug, of our way of life, and our response to addressing the imbalance requires a courageous and systemic approach.

The Council of Churches urges adoption of Article 5, sections 4, 7, and 10, not only to address long running inequities, but as a matter of justice.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Langill
Executive Minister