



**State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

February 27, 2025

The Hon. Marvin Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SUPPORT for Article 5, Sections 4 and 7, FY 26 State Budget

Dear Chair Abney:

I write today in strong support of the measures to fund Rhode Island's housing resources and homelessness prevention efforts put forth in Article 5, Sections 4 and 7 of Governor McKee's proposed FY26 State budget.

Throughout my career as an elected official—first as a member and president of the Providence City Council, and now as Rhode Island's Lieutenant Governor—I have been a steadfast advocate for affordable housing and homelessness solutions. This budget takes meaningful steps to address homelessness by including much-needed financial resources to support our most vulnerable residents.

Proposals such as closing the short-term rental loophole by applying the 5 percent hotel tax to whole-home short-term rentals, increasing the real estate conveyance tax on properties above \$800,000, and allocating additional revenue to the Housing Resources and Homelessness Fund are important steps toward creating a more equitable housing landscape for all Rhode Islanders.

Rhode Island must make sustained investments in long-term solutions for the housing crisis. With rising home and rental costs, limited affordable housing options, and increasing rates of homelessness, we must remain committed to expanding housing opportunities that ensure stability and security for all residents. As we approach the conclusion of State Fiscal Recovery Funds, it is critical that we continue to prioritize funding not only for emergency responses but also for the production and preservation of affordable housing.

I am committed to working alongside policymakers, advocates, and community stakeholders to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to safe, affordable, and stable homes. Together, we will continue to pursue people-centered solutions that strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

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

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Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor
State of Rhode Island