



Dear Rhode Island Legislature,

Progreso Latino's mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities to achieve greater self-sufficiency and socio-economic progress by providing transformational programs that support personal growth and social change. We strongly believe that renters in Rhode Island often suffer from unfair and extreme rent increases, often on a very short notice. Below, you will find 12 testimonies from Rhode Island residents who believe that the cost of rent and of living is too high, and are struggling to make ends meet. Many are unemployed, elderly, and disabled, and are finding it increasingly harder to pay rising rents. This bill would help alleviate this issue by increasing the amount of time residents have to gather the money for rent, or seek out another apartment to avoid eviction. We, Progreso Latino, are strongly in support of HB-7304, to give our most vulnerable residents the time and opportunity to maintain their quality of life.

Sincerely,

**Progreso Latino
626 Broad Street
Central Falls, RI, 02863
Phone number: 401-728-5920**

Claudia Pineda

I, Claudia Pineda, am a resident of Central Falls, RI give my testimony in support of HB-7304. I consider that the high costs of rent are too high and personally, as a family, it affects us a lot because we have many expenses. We pay \$1,800 in rent alone, plus bills, gas, electricity, and food for our children. We do not earn enough to pay so many expenses. That is why I am in favor of this law for a better future, for the community and our families. Therefore, we are asking for the approval of the law so that those of us who have a rent increase have time to raise the money to look for a new apartment and be more comfortable.

Sincerely,

Claudia Pineda

135 Sylvian St.

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-286-9738

Teresa De Jesus Torres

I, Teresa De Jesus, am a resident of Pawtucket, RI. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. It is very difficult to pay for rent, food, bills, car insurance, and medical insurance with how high the rents are. Even though we do not earn enough, rent is very high. Please, we need your help for rent control. I support the law of a 90-day notice before a rent increase. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Teresa De Jesus Torres
84 Pine Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
401-286-9738

Fabiola González

I, Fabiola González, am a resident of Central Falls give my testimony in support of HB-7304. My experience is that my partner pays \$1,000 for a very small apartment and it has been difficult for us because he has been disabled since October, and additionally, we pay for electricity and gas. I pay \$1,200 for electricity, gas, food, and other expenses and I am not working yet. Therefore, I want to support this bill to increase the notice period required for tenants from 30 days to 90 days.

Sincerely,

Fabiola González

Central Falls

401-359-6392

Manuel Morales

I, Manuel Morales, am a resident of Central Falls and give my testimony in support of HB-7304. From my experience, the costs of electricity and gas are very high. I have to pay \$350 dollars in electricity and \$250 for gas per month and for that I have to ask for help. I live with my brother who is disabled, therefore I support this bill.

Sincerely,

Manuel Morales

101 Tremont St.

Apt. #1

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-572-1384

Magdalena Morales

I, Magdalena Morales, am a resident of Central Falls and I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. Right now, I am unemployed and have been seeking a job for more than a year. My income has been zero. I was paying \$700, but that recently increased to \$800. With no income, it has been difficult for me to pay our rent. I support legislation HB-7304 of increasing the notice for rent increases of 30 days to 90 days and 60 days to 120 days for seniors.

Sincerely,

Magdalena Morales

101 Tremont St.

Apt. #1

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-572-1384

Aurora Melo

My name is Aurora Melo and I have been a resident of Central Falls for more than 18 years in the same apartment. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. For many years, I was paying \$550 per month in rent and in 2023 they raised my rent to \$1,150. I am a single, elderly woman. I suffer from health issues and after having a stroke I currently cannot work. It has been very difficult paying my bills to survive. I beg for your support and to pass HB-7304 to help me and others who are suffering the same experience. Thank you. We need more time to move and find a new apartment.

Sincerely,

Aurora Melo

854 Broad St,

Central Falls, RI 02863

978-509-9999

Alonso Alvarez

I, Alonso Alvarez, am a resident of North Providence. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. At this moment, the rent is out of control and over the minimum salary for a household head. Many cannot afford to live because a person who was paying \$800 a month can have their rent increased by \$500 and that is too much money for a person to be able to survive because food prices have increased and home expenses as well. We also have too many other expenses. I support legislation HB-7304 of increasing the notice for rent increases of 30 days to 90 days and 60 days to 120 days for seniors.

Sincerely,

Alonso Alvarez

48 Dorman Ave,

North Providence, RI 02904

401-663-1677

Rosa I. Santiago

I, Rosa I. Santiago, am a resident of Central Falls. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. At this moment I consider that the cost of living is too high. The cost of housing should decrease in order to maintain a good quality of living and avoid evictions. For example, we will avoid the homeless crisis that we face right now in our community. HB-7304 will be beneficial for renters as we give them more time from 30 to 90 days. This is why I agree with the proposal supported by State Rep. Stewart from 30 to 90-day rent notification.

Sincerely,

Rosa I. Santiago

96 Summer St.

Apt. 2

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-663-1876

Vrenely Odette Espinosa

Hi, my name is Vrenely Espinosa and I am a resident of Pawtucket. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. From my experience, the rents are too high at the moment. I was paying the right amount for rent and my landlord wanted to raise the rent. I didn't have a job at that time and I was living with my daughter and grandkids. During that time our landlord also wanted to evict us, for which he only gave us the 30-day notice. What I want to see in change is for landlords to give tenants a little time. There is no control and everything is too costly at this moment. This is why you see a family like ours living with 3 or more people and having 2 jobs just to afford a living. We also have a lot of people right now getting laid off from their jobs and in need of a new one. This is why I support the bill proposal by State Rep. Stewart for a raise from a 30 to 90-day rent notification.

Sincerely,

Vrenely Espinosa

78 Appleton Ave,

Pawtucket, RI 02860

401-442-5348

Nini Pallares

I, Nini Pallares, am a resident of Central Falls. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. I consider it is important to give more time of notice to tenants at the moment of rent increase because the minimum salary is too low and landlords have increased the rent price too much. This is to give more time to prepare ourselves financially for the change in rent increase. Support us in giving 90 days notice to tenants for any change of price rent.

Sincerely,

Nini Pallares

71 Fuller Ave,

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-359-7934

Mercedes Velez

I, Mercedes Velez, am a resident of Central Falls. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. I have a medical condition and I cannot work. I have section 8. We need more time to look for rent and a new apartment, with utilities included, with the 90-day rent notification. Support us in legislative proposal HB-7304.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Velez

26 Summit St.,

Central Falls, RI 02863

401-696-9583

Alice Ramos Do Nascimento

I, Alice Ramos Do Nascimento, am a resident of Pawtucket. I give my testimony in support of HB-7304. From my current experience, rent prices are too high. I am struggling to get an apartment for rent; I wanted the government to provide help for tenants so this situation improves. This is why I am in support of giving a 30 to 90 day rent increase notification.

Sincerely,

Alice Ramos Do Nascimento

71 Anthony Ave.,

Pawtucket, RI 02860

401-663-2287