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Subject: Support for H-7960: Just Cause Evictions for Tenants

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you as a representative of SEIU 1199NE, where I stand alongside 5,000 healthcare and service workers across Rhode Island, to voice our collective support for House Bill H-7960. This critical piece of legislation proposes to institute just cause evictions for residential tenancies, a move we firmly believe will bring much-needed stability and fairness to the rental housing market in our state.

The essence of H-7960 lies in its commitment to protecting tenants from arbitrary or unjust evictions, ensuring that any action to remove a tenant is grounded in legitimate, justifiable reasons. This approach not only promotes fairness but also significantly contributes to the overall well-being and security of tenants, who are often at a disadvantage in the landlord-tenant dynamic.

For many of our members, the threat of eviction without just cause is a constant worry, one that can have far-reaching implications on their mental health, job performance, and family stability. By mandating just cause for evictions, H-7960 addresses these concerns head-on, offering tenants a level of security that has been sorely lacking. This is especially pertinent for our members, who dedicate their lives to serving and caring for others in our community and deserve to come home to a stable and secure environment.

Moreover, by fostering a fairer eviction process, H-7960 encourages a healthier relationship between landlords and tenants, based on mutual respect and understanding. It encourages landlords to maintain their properties and engage in good practices, knowing that eviction is not an option without just cause. This, in turn, can lead to better-maintained housing stock and a more harmonious community overall.

In addition, the introduction of just cause evictions can potentially reduce the strain on our legal and social services systems. By decreasing the number of unjust evictions, we can lessen the burden on these critical resources, allowing them to focus on cases and individuals in genuine need of assistance.

House Bill H-7960 represents a forward-thinking approach to housing policy, one that recognizes the importance of stability and fairness for tenants. It is a testament to Rhode Island's commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all its residents. We urge you to support this bill and help us take a significant step towards creating a more equitable and just housing environment in our state.

Thank you for considering our support for House Bill H-7960. We look forward to the positive change this legislation will bring to the lives of our members and all Rhode Island residents.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore