

March 18, 2025

Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Veronica Martinez and I am writing in support of House Bill 5264, which seeks to limit annual rent increases to no more than 4%. As the Housing and Economic Mobility Director for Family Service of RI, I have seen firsthand the struggles that Rhode Islanders face due to escalating housing costs. The majority of the families we serve are paying much more than 40% of their gross monthly income towards rent costs. Many of the families are single parent households, who often need a secondary source of income to make ends meet. This often results to added stress and less time to dedicate to their children.

The affordability crisis in RI has reached a critical point. Rent increases, often excessive, are displacing families, seniors, and individuals with limited income. This forces them into financial instability, housing insecurity, and even homelessness. The proposed 4% cap on rent increases is a necessary and reasonable measure to provide some level of stability for RI families.

In my work, I have witnessed families having to choose between paying rent, buying food, or covering medical expenses. Stabilizing rent increases will help preserve housing affordability and promote economic security.

I urge the support of this bill and taking a step toward making housing more sustainable for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica Martinez".

Veronica Martinez