

Roberta DiMezza

From: Adam Belanger <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 1:19 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H5446 - OPPOSE

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

I strongly oppose this. This only will increase rents across the board. I have a Providence Police officer living in one of my two units, in Providence, at a rent almost 35% below market rate. All of these bills making it harder for landlords will force us to increase rents and force the people who work in and protect our community to move out.

I oppose House Bill 5446, which would allow tenants to make changes to rental property at their own expense for energy conservation.

On the surface this sounds like a reasonable idea, but automatically allowing tenants to do work without approval of the owner or manager raises a number of problems.

Tenants may not know how to safely perform such work, either for their own safety or without damaging the property.

For example, the bill mentions removable weather-stripping around doors and windows, but if applied incorrectly such weather-stripping cannot be removed without damaging paint and finishes. It also mentions removable interior storm windows, and allowing tenants to DIY install any kind of window seems ill-advised.

The bill states that tenants may also install insulation wrap around hot water heating tanks. Allowing or encouraging tenants to wrap materials around electric or gas heating tanks seems especially problematic. Tenants could easily choose an incorrect material for such wrapping or could install it incorrectly, creating a fire hazard.

Energy conservation is a worthy goal but tenants and landlords should be encouraged to work together on that goal rather than allowing tenants to make changes to property without the owner's prior approval or coordination.

For all of the above reasons, I hope you vote to hold this bill for further consideration.

Sincerely,

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