

Hello, my name is Kiersten Picard and I am a URI student who currently rents in the town of Narragansett. I currently am renting at 17 Melbourne Drive and next academic year will be renting at 65 Southwest Road. The bill will reduce the current limits on renting in cities and towns across the state and will have a positive effect on the housing crisis in Rhode Island. It will also provide badly needed housing for URI students. The town's 3 student per house ordinance has greatly and negatively impacted all students of URI and even me. Finding housing for the academic year of 24-25 was extremely difficult. This is due to the major increase in rent costs due to the ordinance. The housing options were already extremely limited due to there not being enough houses to all students and on top of that finding an affordable house made it ten times more difficult for my roommates and I. We each have to pay \$1200 a month for living which takes a huge toll on us. Because the rent is so expensive, I personally have to help my family pay for the house. This is taxing on my mental health because I have to work 30 hours a week in order to save up money to help cover rent bills for the next academic year. This is extremely stressful for me because I also have classes to attend on campus. Whenever I am not in class, I am working. I struggle to even find time to complete homework due to not getting home until about 10PM every night. Then once I am home I am awake until about 1AM completing homework for my college courses. This means I am barely getting enough sleep due to having to wake up at 6:30AM for work and school. My body is both mentally and physically drained. And it is all because the town of Narragansett is not allowing me to live with more than 2 other people, making costs of renting much higher than they should be. I am not the only student in this position, as I know others who are working tirelessly like myself just to cover rent bills. Please kindly consider passing the H7382 bill that way myself and thousands of other students can live more comfortably and more mentally stable.

Thank you for taking your time to read this email.

Best,  
Kiersten Picard