

I would like to submit the following as written testimony:

My name is Kyle LaBranche and I live in Cumberland, RI. I am a lifelong Rhode Island resident and a high school math teacher in Pawtucket. Today, I am writing to urge you to support House Bill H7382.

Having grown up in RI, I have a tremendous appreciation for our beautiful beaches and coastline. Several years ago, my wife and I were lucky enough to purchase a beach house in Narragansett with hopes of being able to create our own RI summer beach memories with our young family. As I am a public school teacher, I'm sure you understand this was a significant investment. However, I did the math and knew that we would be able to make our dreams a reality by renting our house out to students during the school year. We have invested over a hundred thousand dollars in that home, pulling permits for any improvements, and always registering the home properly.

Recently, unfortunately, the residents of Narragansett have targeted rental properties in a not so subtle effort to keep Narragansett to themselves. They are attempting to limit our ability to rent the legally permitted 5 bedroom home to no more than 3 students, and are now targeting short term summer rentals. This is all so they can make the town I love more exclusive, and less accessible to the rest of us Rhode Islanders, especially the students and summer renters who have always been an essential part of the fabric of that community.

As a high school teacher in Pawtucket I am in touch with many URI students (most of whom come from low income families), and what the town of Narragansett is doing is devastating to these students already struggling with rising costs of higher education. By limiting the supply of housing, prices are getting driven up, and students are once again forced to pick up the tab. It is absurd that while the university, state, and country are facing a tremendous housing SHORTAGE, selfish residents are passing ordinances to limit access to housing, and drive prices up even more.

The people of Narragansett have demonstrated extremely selfish motives at the cost of Rhode Island's students, and soon any RI families who hope to create RI beach memories. House Bill H7382 will be an important first step to letting the town know that the state will not stand by while the town pursues discriminatory and immoral ordinances.

Thanks for your consideration. Hope all is well.

Kyle LaBranche

Sent from my iPhone