

Dear Chairman Casey and members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee

I am in favor of the house bill 5100 for the following reasons:

- 1) The act will authorize municipalities to make emergency declaration under limited circumstances to allow construction of SAVE units (such as those in Providence) on a temporary basis with exemptions of state fire codes.
- 2) Bill will make it easy for municipalities to create emergency shelter for the chronic homeless.
- 3) Need is great--- estimated 800 older Rhode Islanders (65 and older) will face eviction over the next two to three years; an estimated 300 older Rhode Islanders (65 and older) will be homeless in the next two to three years.
- 4) Being a public health issue, homelessness people have generally bad health and will use emergency room services more than the general population. They also do not have health insurance.
- 5) Older adults are now the fastest growing age group to experience homelessness.

Note: A middle school student in Alaska has built a "tiny house" with little assistance and is donating the unit to his municipal. Why can't vocational students, such as those at Davies, built these units? The state of RI can save some money!

Thank you.

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