

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

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 5100.

It is morally imperative that we address homelessness in Rhode Island, rather than shying away from our humane responsibilities. This bill would make it easier for municipalities to create shelter for the homeless in times of need. With the current sense of chaos being fostered in society and throughout the federal government; we must take a stand for what is right.

AARP estimates that between 2023 and 2027 over 800 older Rhode Islanders (65+) will face eviction. AARP estimates that between 2023 and 2027 over 300 older Rhode Islanders (65+) will be homeless. Older adults are less likely than younger people to survive exposure to the severe weather conditions people who are homeless must endure; though no one should be subjected to such conditions. According to Crossroads Rhode Island in 2023 they saw a 33 percent increase in seniors over the age of 65 experiencing homelessness.

Please do the right thing; and support those in need in Rhode Island. Live up the Rhode Island's motto of HOPE for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you;

Laurie Hanna