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HOUSE BILL No. 5100  
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING  
CODE -- ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT {LC705/1} (Authorizes  
municipalities to make an emergency declaration under limited circumstances to allow for  
the construction and use of SAVE Units on a temporary basis which have specialized  
requirements and exemptions from the state fire and building codes.)

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

I am writing to you today, as a registered voter and AARP RI volunteer, in support of House  
Bill No. 5100, authorizing municipalities to make an emergency declaration under limited  
circumstances to allow for the construction and use of SAVE Units on a temporary basis  
with specialized requirements and exemptions from the state fire and building codes,  
making it easier for municipalities to create shelter for the homeless in times of need.

According to a 2023 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services report older adults are  
the fastest-growing age group of those experiencing homelessness with to Crossroads Rhode  
Island reporting a 33% increase in seniors over the age of 65 experiencing homelessness.  
Years old age

Between 2023 and 2027 AARP estimates that over 800 Rhode Islanders, 65+ will face  
eviction and 300+ Rhode Islander will face homelessness. These are unacceptable statistics  
and we must put a priority on our senior population having access to housing, especially  
during the severe winter weather when older adults are less likely than younger people to  
survive exposure.

I ask you today to vote in favor of House Bill No. 5100 which would allow for the  
construction of temporary emergency housing structures and the use of SAVE units for  
people experiencing homelessness during severe weather conditions. Thank you for your  
consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly