

Testimony in support of HB 5100

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

I am writing to express my support for HB 5100, SAVE units for housing and sheltering of homeless people. Recent efforts to categorize these units using existing codes (which do not really fit the units) have caused delays and expenses that resulted in the units being unavailable for unhoused people during the winter of 2024-25.

I do agree that a specific category for these types of units is needed in order to avoid future delays caused by mis-categorizations with stricter than necessary codes.

One concern I do have regarding the current version of this draft legislation is the issuance of a temporary authorization under the local emergency option. My understanding is that the urgent need for expanding shelter options in Rhode Island would compel greater flexibility in keeping these units available year-round (i.e. not just during emergency phases such as winter's cold temperatures).

Thank you for addressing this shelter shortage situation with the proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dumond

Resident of Providence, RI