



Mathewson Street United Methodist Church
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House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

Dear Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing:

This letter is in support of bill 2025 H 5953 – Warming and Cooling Centers , which amends the Rhode Island Emergency Management law, requiring municipalities to create and implement Warming and Cooling Center Plans. Alerts, issued based on weather temperatures, will require municipalities to provide shelter for unsheltered homeless individuals who are at risk of weather-related exposure and possible death.

The temperature for activating Warming Center Alerts will be 36 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower, actual or wind chill temperature. Cooling Center Alerts will be activated when the weather forecast is for 95 to 99 degrees, actual or heat indexed, for two or more days, or 100 degrees or more for any length of time. Shelters must be open 24 hour per day, 7 days per week and provide provisions for individuals' comfort including blankets, cots, mats, meals and beverages.

These measures will ensure that there is a coordinated plan each year, so that we avoid the dire situation we faced this winter in which individuals we left outside in freezing, life threatening conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Simon
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