

Lisa Cataldi

From: Melonie Perez <melonie@daretowin.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:45 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Urgent Support Needed for Housing and Homelessness Bills

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee,

I write to you today as a representative of DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality) in Providence, as well as in my personal capacity from Cranston, to urge you to **act decisively** in passing three critical bills that will directly impact the lives of Rhode Islanders:

House Bill No. 5954 – Rent Control in Providence

(Sponsored by Rep. Sanchez)

This bill would give the City of Providence the power to adopt rent control ordinances, providing much-needed relief to families who are struggling to afford a place to live. **With skyrocketing rents pushing residents out of their homes, we cannot afford to wait.** Stability and dignity in housing should not be a privilege—it must be a right.

House Bill No. 5953 – Warming & Cooling Centers for At-Risk Individuals

(Sponsored by Reps. Tanzi, Cotter, Speakman, Alzate, Carson, Cortvriend, Felix, Hull, Sanchez, Potter)

As extreme weather events become more frequent, this bill will ensure that **municipalities take swift action to protect vulnerable individuals** during dangerous temperature spikes. **No one should suffer or die from exposure simply because they lack shelter.** This legislation is a **lifeline** for at-risk Rhode Islanders.

House Bill No. 5665 – Homeless Bill of Rights Expansion

(Sponsored by Reps. Stewart, Craven, Lombardi, Donovan, Edwards, Tanzi, Alzate, Kazarian, Morales, Speakman)

This bill strengthens protections for unhoused individuals, ensuring their **basic human rights** are upheld. It includes provisions for clean and sanitary conditions and establishes clear rules for interactions with encampments. **How we treat our most vulnerable residents is a reflection of our values as a society.** We must ensure that no person is stripped of their dignity simply because they lack a home.

These bills are not just policies—they are moral imperatives. Rhode Islanders are struggling right now, and your leadership is crucial in passing these protections. **Housing is a human right, and time is of the essence.**

I urge you to **act now** and vote in favor of these essential measures. Lives and livelihoods depend on it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to justice.

Sincerely,

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Melonie Perez
Behind The Walls Committee Organizer
DARE

[Direct Action for Rights and Equality](#)

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