

Call Off Your Old
Tired Ethics



February 28th, 2023

Dear House Judiciary,

I am a Rhode Island voter and representative from COYOTE RI writing to you today in strong support of (H-5362) (H-5580) and (H-5760).

(H-5362) Giving 3 months notice, gives tenants the ability to alter their budgets for higher increases or allows them to find alternative accommodations. A person in RI who earns minimum wage at 13 an hour, can work full time and their entire paycheck does not cover the cost of rent.

(H5580) This fee is usually applied under the guise of doing a credit check and a criminal background check. While criminal background checks can be run for free. It is also free to look to see if the person has had an eviction before in RI. Ironically the same landlords who refuse to report tenants who pay their rent on time to the credit credit bureaus are demanding credit checks. Most landlords require a pay stub or tax return to verify the tenants income.

(H5760) Allowing landlords to run criminal background checks has severely impacted formerly incarcerated people. Just last week COYOTE RI worked with 2 women who were taken to court from the ACI and released on probation with nowhere to go live. The ACI only helps with re-entry planning if the person is already sentenced and has 10 to 90 days left on their sentence. Many people are being released without a state ID or social security card so they can not apply for jobs or public services. It costs 187k a year to house someone up at the ACI. So when someone is sentenced to 90 days for shoplifting, it costs the state 46,750 to house them at the ACI for 90 days. Diverting some of this funding to pay for housing and other vital services for poor people would cost a lot less.

We urge you to vote YES on (H-5362) (H-5580) and (H-5760).

Thank you for your consideration,

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