

February 23, 2026

Dear Chair Mihaly and member of the House General and Housing Committee,

I am writing **in support of H.772**. I am the CEO of Cathedral Square, a non-profit affordable housing and supportive services provider as well as statewide administrator of the SASH[®] (Support and Services at Home) program. We have been operating, primarily in the northwest counties of Vermont, for almost 50 years and currently provide homes and services to 1,200 residents at 28 housing communities. Twenty percent of our residents had no home before moving into their Cathedral Square home. We have over 1,300 people on our wait list for housing.

Like other housing providers, we are challenged everyday by the demand for us to create more affordable housing and the resource scarce environment we currently face. Another pressing challenge we face is an increase in very serious, disruptive and challenging situations at our housing communities that impact the health, safety and wellbeing of the entire community of residents. **We support H.772** because of numerous key provisions that we believe will help us more effectively and efficiently resolve these serious and on-going lease violations where lease termination is necessary after we have worked extensively to resolve the situation and retain tenancy.

Examples of the serious issues that we are contenting with include drug dealing happening in apartments with video footage of a person with a gun forcing entry into the apartment as well as “friends” of residents being allowed to enter the housing communities where they then sell and use drugs. The eviction processes were long and drawn out in both instances between 7-15 months. This has a profoundly negative impact on the entire housing community as well as staff morale and retention.

Cathedral Square does not want to evict our residents, and it is still a rare occurrence. We have extensive services and support programs and staff at the ready to help prevent and then resolve lease violations when they do occur. We have staff trained in Mental Health First Aid, motivational interviewing, trauma informed care, and other evidence-based interventions. Unfortunately, sometimes even these efforts are either not welcomed by the resident or do not bring resolution. In these instances, we need a more balanced and streamlined approach to maintain the high quality, safe and affordable housing communities that we have been stewarding for decades. H.772 is a strong step in the right direction.

We are happy to engage with your Committee as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,



Kim Fitzgerald
CEO

