

March 11, 2026

Dear Chair Mihaly,

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) model. We have been operating in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties of Vermont for almost 50 years. We provide homes and services to over 1,200 residents at 28 housing communities, mostly those 55 and older or disabled. Twenty percent of our residents had no home before moving into their Cathedral Square home. We have nearly 1,400 people on our waitlist for housing.

There are three items of great importance to us within H.772:

1. The ability to secure a no-trespass order for our property when someone poses a threat to our community.
2. The expedited eviction process when a resident is threatening neighbors and/or our staff. In both circumstances, there is a clear threat to the safety and wellbeing of our vulnerable residents and/or our staff.
3. The inclusion of funding for eviction prevention programs and initiatives.

We need to be able to protect and support our residents, and help them retain their tenancy, while also having a mechanism to prohibit guests – whether invited or not – from repeatedly engaging in disruptive behaviors that affect the wellbeing of everyone living in our communities. When it is a resident who is causing the threat or concern, we need an expedited and balanced way to remove them so we can protect the people living and working in the building.

Examples of the serious issues that we are contending with include drug dealing, drug paraphernalia being left in common areas, people sleeping in our entryways and common bathrooms, and even the use of guns to force entry – issues that leave many residents fearful for their lives, often afraid to leave their homes.

Cathedral Square does not want to evict our residents, and we only resort to eviction as a last resource. We offer extensive services and support programs to help prevent and resolve lease violations when they do occur. We work closely with partner organizations to provide wrap-around services. 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.**

Thank you in advance for helping to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,



Kim Fitzgerald, CEO

CC: Chair Martin LaLonde, House Judiciary Committee, Chair Robin Scheu, House Appropriations Committee, Speaker of the House, Jill Krowinski

