



May 26, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard, I am writing to express our strong support for bill S.966/H.4110, "An Act relative to funding housing and mitigating investor real estate in seasonal communities."

As an organization dedicated to helping older adults thrive and age safely on Martha's Vineyard, we see firsthand how the Island's housing crisis affects not only seniors, but also caregivers, health care workers, municipal employees and families across our community.

Martha's Vineyard continues to face an urgent shortage of affordable, year-round housing. With the median home price now at approximately \$1.5 million and only about 40% of housing stock available for year-round occupancy, many Island residents are being priced out of the community they serve. This housing instability impacts essential services, including public safety, education, transportation, and health care. The shortage has also created significant challenges for organizations working to support older adults, as it becomes increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff and caregivers. For older adults specifically, the lack of stable and affordable housing can lead to increased isolation, financial strain, and barriers to aging in place. Many longtime residents on fixed incomes are struggling to remain in the community where they have lived and contributed for decades. In addition, the shortage of workforce housing directly affects the availability of home health aides, nurses, service providers, and other professionals who support healthy aging on the Island.

We believe this legislation represents an important step toward creating sustainable funding solutions that address the unique housing challenges faced by seasonal communities like Martha's Vineyard. Supporting year-round housing opportunities is critical to maintaining a healthy, connected, and age-friendly community for all residents.

We respectfully urge favorable consideration and advancement of S.966/H.4110. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Cindy Trish

Executive Director
Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard



