



Sample Script for Talking to Legislators

No one wants to be homeless, yet there are hundreds of individuals and families who spend their nights in shelters, cars, parks and other places not meant for habitation. In 2014, the State of Rhode Island made a commitment to house all people currently experiencing homelessness and to create system that is able to rapidly house individuals and families who lose housing in the future due to financial difficulties or domestic disruption. This commitment was made by signing on to a national movement, the Zero: 2016 campaign. Through that effort we have been working as a community to house all our homeless veterans by the end of 2015, all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness by the end of 2016 and all homeless families by the end of 2017.

I wanted to meet with you today because ending homelessness is very important. A lot of progress has been made and I wanted to make sure you knew about the success we're having in RI to end homelessness and to ask you to support legislative efforts to achieve that goal.

It is important to me that we end homelessness because ... [Insert personal reason/share your story]

Since January 2015, community organizations, housing providers, and service providers throughout the state have been diligently working together to create a system that quickly and effectively houses individuals experiencing homelessness. These partners are working collaboratively and utilizing local, state, and federal resources to find housing units, offer temporary and permanent rental assistance, and provide case management to individuals who need help acclimating to housing. We are incredibly close to meeting our goal of housing all veterans this year, are ahead of schedule to house all chronically homeless individuals next year, and are working on a comprehensive plan to house all families, too.

In your position as an elected official you are called upon to support many programs. I'd like you to support programs that provide housing, rental, and case management supports to currently homeless individuals and comprehensive homeless prevention programs to prevent others from becoming homeless in the future.



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