



128 DORRANCE STREET, SUITE 220  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903  
401.831.7171 (t)  
401.831.7175 (f)  
[www.riaclu.org](http://www.riaclu.org)

**COMMENTS ON 14 S-2809,  
RELATING TO THE FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES ACT  
May 22, 2014**

This bill would prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of military status. The RI Commission for Human Rights has indicated that their agency has, over the years, received complaints about housing discrimination directed at veterans. In light of the fact that this is a real problem, the ACLU of RI supports this legislation as an important measure to provide veterans with a legal remedy if they are victims of such discrimination.

We all know that returning veterans often face substantial obstacles in restarting a life that may have been interrupted by military service. There is no legitimate basis for a person to be denied such a basic necessity as housing, or otherwise be treated in a discriminatory manner in housing, because of their status as a veteran. To the contrary, it is deeply troubling to think that a person would be treated in such a manner by a landlord or other property owner solely *because* they served their country.

Under those circumstances, we believe they deserve the protections that the Fair Housing Practices Act offers other classes of residents who have similarly faced discriminatory treatment on the basis of stereotypes or prejudice. The ACLU therefore supports passage of this bill.