



Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

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December 18, 2013

William Flynn, MSW

Executive Director

Via E-Mail

The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick RI 02888

Re: Docket 4450

Dear Members of the Commission:

We have presented written testimony to you on November 27 in opposition to raising the age from 62 to 65 for seniors to qualify for protection against utility shutoffs. Our testimony was based on economic data about the senior population aged 62-65 compared to seniors older than 65. We understand that you may vote to implement these new regulations at your meeting on December 20. We urge you to delay action on these sweeping changes until you have heard the stories of how many low-income Rhode Islanders aged 62-65 are struggling to make ends meet. That can be done through public hearings specifically focused on hearing from people who will be directly affected.

The current shutoff regulations were developed over many years with extensive testimony from seniors and advocates at public hearings. We have presented "big picture" testimony about how many members of the current age 62-65 cohort of low-income seniors have less income and higher living expenses than older seniors. In fairness and in carrying out your duties as Commissioners, you should hear and consider their stories before taking this drastic action affecting thousands of vulnerable people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William F. Flynn, Jr." followed by a period.

William F. Flynn, Jr. MSW
Executive Director