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The funds to support ongoing emergency rental assistance and shelter solutions are of critical importance to ensure that Mainers who have been able to find temporary or transitional housing with emergency support will not be forced out onto the street at the harshest time of year to be unhoused. Many of the most vulnerable individuals and families are facing homelessness in the coming months without sufficient emergency housing assistance have come to Maine to exercise their human right to seek asylum and should not be exposed to the dangerous experience of homelessness in Maine winters for being here to do that. The federal rent relief and assistance programs that were put in place during the pandemic were able to kick the can down the road, so to speak, with regards to the affordable housing crisis in Maine, but it is time now for our state legislators to address the lack of availability and affordability of housing with a meaningful legislative response, and passing this bill would be a very important first step to doing so.