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LD 3

As a native Mainer, mother, and pediatric nurse, I feel called to write to you today regarding LD3 and my hope that there will be reconsideration for emergency funding for housing before the winter break.

As a nurse, I am all too familiar with the effect of homelessness or housing insecurity on children and their families. It leads to a wide array of physical and psychological damage. As I hear stories about mothers with infant babies sleeping in tents or on the street while it snows outside, I feel helpless. There are only so many tents, sleeping bags, coats, and warmth kits I can supply as one person.

I understand the importance of a budget and balancing funds and the impetus placed upon you to make good choices for your constituents, but I simply can't shake the feeling that this is not at all the way things should be playing out. Those afflicted with homelessness are often parents working three jobs at a time, "the working poor." They are those afflicted with disease (mental or psychiatric), drug addicts, those who have fallen down on their luck, veterans.

Did you know the average lifespan of a homeless person is 48 years old? Such an absolute shame. Inflation and costs of oil have made life unbearably difficult for many of us, even those of us with good wages. We need to have compassion for our neighbors in need, especially in the winter in Maine. I beg you to push for reconsideration of this funding before the winter break.