

Dear Representatives,
My name is Anna Youngmann Morrow,

Anna Youngmann
Sanford
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Dear Representatives, December 21st, 2022

My name is Anna Youngmann Morrow and I live and work in Sanford. I own Youngmann Morrow Consulting, LLC, and am an Abuse Prevention and Response Consultant. I worked full time at Caring Unlimited, York County's Domestic Abuse Resource Center for 6 years before shifting to consulting work recently. I write to you today as a private citizen and concerned member of our Maine community.

During my time on Caring Unlimited's 24/7 Helpline, I saw first-hand the desperate need for housing and fuel assistance in our communities. As an advocate, I worked with people fleeing for their lives, people who endured strangulation, assaults, and mental and emotional torture. Yet, one of the most disturbing and reoccurring issues I encountered was the lack of sufficient safe housing resources. Caring Unlimited has one of the only Shelter Programs in York County, and our Helpline was constantly flooded with requests for shelter. There are simply not enough beds, and systems are overwhelmed.

Often, we would get calls from folks who were just desperate for a safe warm roof over their heads, but who weren't experiencing abuse. As an advocate, I would do what I could to help them plan and connect them to other resources, but it was one of the most painful parts of my work. How do you tell a parent who is just desperate to keep their children safe and warm that you can't help them? Do you know how excruciating it is to have to constantly triage unimaginable human suffering?

While our roles are very different, your vote today will directly impact the families I have worked with. You get to decide whether there are more options available. How you vote today matters, not only for the individuals and families directly impacted but for the people working to help provide options and resources, whether it's a shelter bed or a sleeping bag. Families are at risk of freezing to death, right here in our community. The need is urgent. Please act now to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our Maine families.

Sincerely,
Anna Youngmann Morrow
Youngmann Morrow Consulting, LLC