

My name is Leonid Eichfeld, I am a citizen of Portland, and I am here to testify in support of LD3. Maine people are in a crisis. I am sure you know the staggering number of evictions being served, and people who are unhoused across our state, so I won't talk about those numbers right now.

I need to talk to you about someone I care about. Last month I met a woman named Kayla, who is unhoused, when I was out walking my dog. She was very upset, and she accepted the help I offered. As we walked together downtown we got to know each other. I think we both needed company at that moment, it was healing to shop and eat together. We spoke of what makes a healthy community, paying kindness forward, and how important support is in order to be able to take care of others too. I think if everyone in our community had support and compassion, then Maine would be thriving. But that's just not the reality of how things are right now.

I am scared to think that Kayla has nowhere to be but out in this cold. I am speaking today because I am very scared. It is so cold outside right now. Many cannot avoid eviction, shelters are vastly overwhelmed and incapable of housing everyone who needs it, and anything but a warm building is not humane. Everyone, no matter who they are, deserves safe housing. Last year I remember the grief myself and my community felt as we heard memorials of people who had froze to death. There is an incalculable heartache of people surviving without safe housing right now. Urgent support and relief is needed. Immediate action is necessary. Please, vote to pass LD3. Thank you for your time.

Leonid Eichfeld
Portland
LD 3

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