

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,
Economic Advancement and Business

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 03/21/2023

Re: LD 787

Testimony in support of LD 787 (*An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development*)

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland's Legislative/Nominating Committee in support of LD 787, An Act to Create the New Maine Resident Service Coordination Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Over the last few years, an overwhelming number of asylum seekers have sought services and shelter in Portland and other municipalities across Maine. Despite reaching shelter capacity and communicating this status publicly, the number of individuals relocating to Maine has remained steady.

Municipalities cannot face this challenge alone. The State of Maine must be the central coordinator for newly arriving asylum seekers and the State must work across government agencies and municipalities to respond to the situation at hand.

There is an on-going, urgent need for statewide coordination of services for the hundreds of asylum seeker families arriving in our Maine communities. The City of Portland's Legislative Committee asks that you support LD 787 to ensure that municipalities are not solely relied upon as the de facto solution to a Statewide challenge.

Thank you for your consideration.

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