

Nancy Nickerson
Portland
LD 2

I am a resident of Portland, Maine, and write today in support of LD 2, an Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis, and specifically, to address the need for "Site-based Housing First."

This bill, sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, will provide funding for the 24-hour-a-day supportive services that make Site-based Housing First an effective and successful solution for highly vulnerable populations, including the chronically homeless. Many of these people also experience untreated mental and behavioral health issues and/or substance use disorders. Once people are safe and supported by 24-hour onsite social work staff in permanent housing, they can stabilize and work toward a more fulfilling and independent future, including addressing substance use disorder, focusing on health, education, or employment, and rebuilding relationships with friends and family.

This bill is a step toward ending long-term, chronic homelessness in our state, and deserves our support.

Thank you.