

Karen Prieto
Brunswick
LD 2

Greetings, honorable members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing.

My name is Karen Staples Prieto. I grew up in Topsham, and now live in Brunswick after many years out of state. I am writing to testify in favor of LD 2, and urge you to please support this important step toward providing state-wide Site-based Housing First.

I understand that people who are unsheltered experience dire health consequences in comparison to those who have the benefit of shelter, and consequently have a much higher consumption of public resources. In addition, people without shelter are more likely to experience houselessness for a longer duration.

By providing safe long-term shelter, the Portland Housing First program has helped people experiencing chronic houselessness address underlying issues more effectively than if they had struggled to overcome them without a safe place to call home.

LD 2 will allow us to extend Housing First programs throughout the state, providing supportive services and crisis intervention to maximize housing stability in both rural and urban communities.

Mainers today still face high housing costs and health concerns that can interfere with human individuals' fundamental right to have a safe place to sleep and conduct essential routine activities.

Please support this bill so that we can provide help to people who need it. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Karen Prieto