



**Community Health and Counseling Services**  
*Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services*

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April 2, 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Committee on Housing, my name is Dale Hamilton and I am the executive director of Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS). I am writing in support of LD 2, An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis. CHCS provides a broad array of services including services to individuals who experience chronic homelessness.

Housing stability is influenced by many factors. Our success in confronting this growing challenge requires a variety of interventions. LD 2 provides important resources to address one aspect of this challenge. Individuals who experiencing chronic homelessness often struggle with other issues that interfere with their housing stability. Supported housing is a cost effective and proactive intervention that helps to maintain housing stability. Penquis is in the process of developing 41 units in Bangor. We are in the process of collaborating with Penquis to find a way to bring 24/7 support to the individuals who transition out of homelessness. This type of resource would make it possible to implement this project as well as other projects around Maine.

I truly appreciate the focus that this committee has on addressing our housing challenges. I believe that resources provided by LD 2 will have an immediate and positive impact on the housing crisis in Maine. I fully support the need for data collection from any entity who receives funding to evaluate the effectiveness of the model. I also believe that the results will be overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support individuals who experience chronic homelessness.

Sincerely,

Dale Hamilton  
Executive Director