

Maura McDonald  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 2

Dear Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing: My name is Maura McDonald, I live in the town of Cape Elizabeth and I am submitting this letter in favor of LD 2; An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis. My brother, Brian McDonald, has been a resident at Logan Place in Portland for the past 4 years. Prior to that, he spent several homeless years on the streets of the city of Portland. During his period of homelessness, I recall driving the streets of Portland at different times of the day and night (particularly in the cold, Winter months) to locate him and provide whatever support he would accept. Thankfully, I was able to work with the Staff at Milestone Foundation to secure stable housing for Brian at Logan Place. There he has been supported by on-site staff and we have rebuilt our relationship. Unfortunately, Brian's short term memory has been compromised by his alcohol use disorder. He is unable to work or sufficiently support himself. His housing at Logan Place has stabilized him to the point that we are able to walk together most Sundays. I am in regular contact with the Staff at Logan Place who assist me to connect with Brian on a weekly basis. We have occasional meals together, he has attended my children's sporting events and we have enjoyed the Sea Dogs together in the Summer months. I am grateful for the Logan Place Staff and reassured by the supportive and compassionate care they provide to him. It is comforting to know that he has a warm and welcoming place to spend his days. In addition, I have developed relationships with other Logan Place residents who, also, have befriended Brian. As I drive the city streets, and see others who are homeless, I am personally reminded of Brian's journey. It is my hope that the Housing Committee will look favorably on LD 2 and sufficient housing will be created so that others can benefit from an expanded housing infrastructure in the same way that Brian and I have. Respectfully submitted, Maura McDonald 23 Cottage Farms Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107