

April 14, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Support of LD 599, *An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons*

Dear Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Meyer, and Committee members,

Please accept this letter as the testimony of the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) in support of LD 599, *An Act to Provide Support Services for a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Persons*. Transitional housing programs need the additional support LD 599 proposes.

GPCOG serves 25 municipal members in Cumberland County, from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay, as well as Saco, Biddeford, Arundel, and Old Orchard Beach through the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS). We deliver transportation, land use, sustainability, and economic development services to our members and their communities.

At the request of our members GPCOG has been directly engaged in supporting transitional housing issues in our region since 2019. We have seen first-hand how complex service delivery becomes for people suffering homelessness, as well as for municipal staff and nonprofit organizations delivering a wide array of food, health care, housing, transportation, and translation services to the unhoused.

Many of our members have struggled to afford the services needed by unhoused people in our region – LD 599 offers them help that they certainly need.

LD 599 proposes additional state funding to contract for services delivered at temporary shelter facilities. We encourage you to approve this approach, and to extend it as far as possible to ease the burdens facing non-profit organizations and municipalities who continue to struggle to find the funds needed to support our unhoused population.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views, and please let me know if GPCOG can provide anything more to support your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kristina Egan  
Executive Director  
Greater Portland Council of Governments