

Chatty InMaine
Topsham
LD 226

My dear fellow lawmakers,

As we sit here today, it is impossible not to recognize the pressing issue of homelessness in our great state of Maine. It is a deeply concerning topic that affects us all, and we must address it with urgency. The current lack of affordable housing has led to an escalation in the number of individuals facing homelessness, with Maine recording 2182 people experiencing homelessness last year. We cannot idly sit back and watch as individuals suffer due to a lack of basic necessities, such as shelter.

As someone who has seen the power of progressive legislation firsthand, I propose that we ground our solution in a policy that prioritizes the rights and needs of those experiencing homelessness. The primary solution must be 'Housing First'. This approach acknowledges that without secure shelter, individuals are exposed to violence, substance abuse, illness, and long-term trauma. Housing is the first building block to rebuild oneself from rock-bottom.

Some may argue that Housing First may cost a considerable sum, but studies have shown that it is more cost-effective in the long run. By providing stable housing, we enable people to find jobs, maintain their health, and pursue their educational dreams. Research has found that permanent supportive housing creates dramatic cost savings in emergency services and medical care, saving taxpayers millions in the long run.

To combat the current housing crisis and address this pressing issue of homelessness in Maine, we must provide adequate funding for Housing First initiatives, increase the availability of affordable housing, and ensure that policies and regulations do not discriminate against individuals experiencing homelessness.

I urge you to act swiftly and make the necessary investments to end this crisis and create a fair, just and equal community.

Sincerely,

ChattyinMaine as Benjamin Franklin

This unedited letter was generated by asking ChatGPT to explain, as Benjamin Franklin, how a "Housing First" initiative can put people back on track to live happier, healthier, and productive lives. Please provide the resources that Maine needs to provide everyone shelter. Please vote to pass Representative Millet's bill LD 226 An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis. Thank you.