

**TESTIMONY TO THE 131ST SESSION OF THE MAINE LEGISLATURE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Regarding LD 1426

**“An Act to secure housing for the most vulnerable Maine residents by amending
the Laws governing Municipal General Assistance”**

Co-chairs Senator Baldacci, Representative Michele Myers and Members of the joint Committee on Health and Human Services, I am the Rev. Donald J. Rudalevige of Cape Elizabeth and a member of the Anti-Racism Committee of HopeGateWay Church in Portland. I am writing in support of LD 1426, increasing support for Municipalities for General Assistance in providing housing for those in need of housing support.

The effect of this bill would be to provide the means for the cities and towns to cover rental costs for the most needy in an ever-tightening housing market. It also further relieves the financial pressure on these entities through the requirement that municipalities be reimbursed for 5% of their direct costs of providing benefits.

This bill provides needed relief to the communities on whom the burden of providing housing, especially to New Mainers, falls disproportionately. It also could have effect of making it more possible for those that have been reluctant to provide housing support to facilitate such arrangements.

All agree that housing security is vital for a person or family to thrive, making it possible to pursue an education, and employment, even making it easier to provide adequate food.

I hope the Legislature will pass this needed Legislation.> Thank you for your attention,

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