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**Re: LD 1844: An Act to Support Emergency Housing Construction and Renovation
Statewide by Creating a Matching Grant Program**

Dear Senator Pierce, Representative Grere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing:

I am Anita Ruff, Executive Director of the Oasis Free Clinics in Brunswick, which is also where I live. I am writing to urge you to support LD 1844.

The mission of Oasis Free Clinics is to strengthen our community by providing no-cost medical, dental and prescription assistance services to our uninsured neighbors in need. We serve adults who live in Freeport, Durham, Brunswick, Harpswell and Sagadahoc County who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is the equivalent of almost \$30,000 a year if someone is single. Currently, we provide our free services to almost 500 of our neighbors.

Many of our patients struggle with housing insecurity. Whether living in an emergency shelter, in their car, in a tent, or "sofa surfing," it is challenging for patients without a safe and stable place to focus on their health.

The emergency housing provider for my town and the southern Midcoast region is Tedford Housing. Last year, Tedford served over 550 people facing housing insecurity. If this bill passes, they would be able to serve significantly more of our neighbors and patients. We desperately need it, and I am asking for your help.

Please vote yes to support LD 1844. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anita Ruff, MPH, MCHES
Executive Director