

Karen Prieto  
Brunswick  
LD 1721

Greetings, honorable members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing.

My name is Karen Staples Prieto. I grew up in Topsham, and now live in Brunswick after many years out of state. Thank you very much for your vote last week to advance LD 2 - Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis, and for your long hours in preparation for the summer break.

Please also consider voting "ought to pass" for LD 1721 - Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State.

Unlike LD 2, which targets long-term housing for individuals with chronic homelessness, LD 1721 is intended to address temporary housing for up to 24 months at a time. Through a presentation series at Prince Memorial Library, "From Africa to Maine," I have learned that transitional housing is a missing link in our system that would be particularly beneficial for asylum seekers who have recently joined our state community. Without transitional housing options, organizations working with New Mainers have needed to rely heavily on hotels - which I'd guess is more expensive and less conducive to resource-sharing.

Personally, I view welcoming New Mainers as not only a moral duty, but also an opportunity to increase our work force as our existing population progresses to retirement. Having reliable housing options while our new neighbors establish themselves seems like an important piece of the welcoming process.

So I ask you to please support LD 1721. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Karen Prieto, she/ her/ Mx