

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Committee on Housing: my name is Raina Overskrider, I live in Lewiston Maine and I am here today to testify in favor of LD-1710.

The reason I support LD-1710 is for the simple fact that housing is a human right and everyone deserves a safe and affordable home.

The growing housing and homeless crisis within Maine is proof that bills like LD-1710 are needed.

Far too many people are struggling just to cover rent while working two and sometimes three jobs just to afford rent and that is not even taking into account the increased cost of living many of us are struggling with.

There is also far too much discrimination against vulnerable people, disabled people, people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community when it comes to housing. So many within these communities are brutally denied housing due to systemic racism and bigotry within the housing system itself.

All people deserve safe and affordable housing free of discrimination.

To deny housing as a human right is to deny the people dignity, respect and a bright future.

I urge this committee to pass LD-1710 as it will be the first steps into building a brighter future for the people.

Thankyou for your time.

