

## United Way of Mid Coast Maine

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of Mid Coast Maine

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

May 12, 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Nicole Evans and I am the Executive Director of United Way of Mid Coast Maine. On behalf of our organization, I'd like to express our support for LD 1844.

Every community in Maine is facing a housing crisis. Today, hard-working individuals and families do not have enough income to afford housing and are being forced to live in their cars, tents, and couch surf. These unsustainable options leave many with no other option than to use homeless services. Homeless shelters are at capacity with no end in sight.

LD 1844 addresses a critical need every community is facing.

People in every community are doing their best to address each aspect of the housing crisis; however, we cannot avoid the reality that many of us, our family members, friends, and neighbors are housing insecure and are at risk of becoming homeless. We need your support of LD 1844—expansion of emergency housing has to be included in solving our housing crisis.

Please vote ought to pass on LD 1844.

Thank you for all that you do. We are grateful for your service.