

Dear Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and Members of the Housing Committee,

I am writing to you asking for your support of LD 2136. I am certain you are aware of the housing crisis here in Maine and throughout the country. There are many reasons for this including the number of skilled construction workers, availability of materials, the housing market itself and others. Many of these issues are difficult to resolve. However, one issue, short term homelessness, can be addressed in a straight forward fashion. Research shows that homelessness is generally short-term (30 -45 days) and disproportionately affects youths (<https://www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org>). If a person can find reasonable shelter during that initial homeless phase they can focus their efforts on finding a job, addressing physical and mental health, substance use problems, etc. This can greatly aid in their ability to find new employment, health care and and entry into a permanent housing / job situation. However, without that safety net, they tend to continue in a cycle of short-term housing coupled with on-the-street survival. That cycle can be self perpetuating leading to more difficulties for them and a greater burden on the systems designed to help them.

I urge you to consider addressing and helping reduce one aspect of the housing crisis by voting “ought to pass” on LD 2136