

Lacey Donle
LISBON FALLS
LD 2138

Please vote to pass LD 2138 to support emergency shelters. Shelters are one piece of the housing puzzle, not the end game, but the starting place to receive kindness, direction, and assistance with rebuilding a life and regaining stable affordable housing and other needed supports to maintain that housing. Without shelters, people will stay outdoors, seek services at the hospital emergency room, and remain in unsafe situations just to keep a roof over their head. This may look like staying with someone who is abusive, exploitative, neglectful and violent. More and more, those seeking shelter look like older adults and medically compromised individuals who are disconnected from natural supports and healthcare and mental health services. Many times they have lost important documentation that would help them gain eligibility to safety net programs like MaineCare and they require intense support to gain access to services they are eligible for but have been cut off from due to their homelessness and medical issues. It is often impossible to comply with submitting documentation on time when receiving notices that documentation is due requires a stable address, ability to read, write and understand complex information, a phone and other seemingly minor factors that became a massive barrier to older people who are disconnected and alone. Without shelters, our citizens experiencing homelessness will not decrease or cease to exist, their needs will just get more costly and more difficult to resolve. Please do the right thing and support homeless shelters today! Thank you!