

February 22, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

*A **Couch** is Not a Home*

*A **Motel** is Not a Home*

*A **Car** is Not a Home*

*A **Tent** is Not a Home*

*A **Shelter** is Not a Home*

These 32 words hit me full force when I opened the NY Times website yesterday. I am Jessica Linzer Simpson, from Cape Elizabeth, also an AARP Maine volunteer/advocate who has been attending the Joint Select Committee on Housing these past two sessions.

I am writing to have you consider the Governor's Supplemental Budget that sets aside 107 million dollars and to allocate a portion, \$20 million of additional funds, toward our statewide housing crisis.

My ask derives from the work of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition (AARP Maine is a coalition member) and I respectfully request that these funds be split between **Maine Housing's Rural Affordable Rental Program**, and the State's **Low Income Housing Tax Credits**, the places the coalition feels additional funds would have the most impact.

The Governor and the Legislature in our state have surely recognized the housing crisis here and have been allocating resources, but still, so much more needs to be done.

Please consider *that additional funds from the state spur additional investment from the private sector*. Those investments then boost the local economy, strengthen the community and of course, change a person's life, because *"A House or an Apartment is a Home."*

Thank you for all you do for the people in Maine.

Sincerely,

Jessica Linzer Simpson

