

Gail Witherill
Cumberland
LD 209

To Senator Rotundo , Representative Gattine and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

My name is Gail Witherill, I am from Cumberland, and am writing about LD 209, Section S. This is the section that decreases the number of months for GA help for housing from 9 months to 3 months in a year. I urge you to reject this change. First, I object to balancing the budget on the shoulders of the most vulnerable. Second, the families I work with-a population which is often touted, and rightly so, as the future workforce of Maine, are affected by the unpredictability of our processing systems so that necessary work permits and renewals for work permits are not received in a predictable timeframe. Moving from a shelter to housing is important for family nstability. Landlords will want the predictability of incoming rent and thus will be adverse to renting to families whose work permits are in limbo. A cushion of 3 months is too short and will adversely affect getting people off the streets and into housing. Please reject this change that will unduly affect our future Maine workers.