

Megan Smith
South Portland
LD 244

To the members of the committee:

My name is Megan Smith and I am a resident of South Portland. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 244, An Act to Provide Short-Term Housing to Indigent Individuals Released from Correctional Facilities.

First, I want to thank Senator Talbot-Ross, Senator Beebe-Center, and Representative Hasenfus for sponsoring this crucial legislation. By bringing LD 244 forward, you are addressing a significant gap in our reentry system and providing individuals with the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Housing is a cornerstone of successful reentry. When individuals are released from jail or prison without access to stable housing, they face overwhelming odds. Without housing, it becomes nearly impossible to secure employment, access essential services, or establish stability. Instead, many are left vulnerable to homelessness, unemployment, and a cycle of re-incarceration. This doesn't just harm the individuals—it impacts their families, their communities, and society as a whole.

LD 244 offers a compassionate and practical solution by providing transitional housing. This legislation ensures that individuals have the stability they need to reintegrate successfully and contribute positively to their communities. It is an investment in public safety, community well-being, and the dignity of individuals striving to rebuild their lives.

I urge you to support LD 244 and take this vital step toward breaking the cycles of poverty, instability, and incarceration. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Megan Smith