

Mary Michals  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 210

Senators Rotundo and Ingwersen, Representatives Gattine and Meyers and Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing and Economic Development Committee members,

My name is Mary Michals and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

I am writing to express support for Preble Street, a Portland based social services agency, in opposing the budget proposal that would limit General Assistance housing assistance to 3 months. This proposal would directly and irreparably harm housing insecure individuals and families in Maine, putting them at greater risk of homelessness during a housing and homelessness crisis.

This will result in higher costs over the long term. Those who need assistance longer will be forced into homelessness and shelters. Shelters are more expensive than GA to keep people housed. \$3776 a month for a shelter bed vs \$1434 a month for a heated unit.

GA rental assistance helps people exit homelessness. 58% of the people who exited shelters in Portland used GA.

The overburdened homelessness response system will suffer from limits to GA, leading to more encampments.