

Delene Perley  
Portland  
LD 210

My name is Delene Perley and I am a resident of Portland, Maine.

I oppose the budget proposal that would limit General Assistance housing assistance to three months.

This goes to immigrants, mostly asylum seekers, who are not allowed to work for a year. It also goes to unhoused people who have finally found a place to live. Give them time to get oriented, settled and find that supportive job they need. Will a landlord agree to rent to someone with only three month's rent?

These are the people who will clean the schools and hospital rooms, work in the back of the restaurants, pick the crops, etc.

I have volunteered helping immigrants. They are eager to fit in and join the Maine people while establishing a new life for themselves and their families.

I live in Portland where the unhoused numbers are too high but when someone can finally leave the homeless shelter, how wonderful that is. These people are eager to become productive residents, eventually citizens, if only we would give them a hand.

Three months is NOT enough time. Imagine yourselves in their shoes.

In addition, I understand that this affects healthcare, especially MaineCare/Medicaid. I run a food pantry and see people every day who are struggling because of costs associated with healthcare. A man the other day was just trying to get his teeth fixed so he could eat a variety of foods. These are the people who need healthcare assistance the most. Until we have universal coverage, Maine must provide for them. HALF of the children in Maine are on MaineCare! Do you want to deny them and their families protections against going broke because of a health issue?

My Unitarian Universalist faith is oriented around LOVE. We are asking you to show some of that LOVE, yourself.

Vote NO on LD 210.

Thank you!