

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to LD 521**, "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on Source of Income, Veteran Status, or Military Status."

Our company provides quality rental housing in the greater Waterville area. Through my professional network, I also know many other housing providers.

I truly believe this bill creates unnecessary bureaucratic red tape. I have had many tenants who were or are active duty or retired military personnel. They were and are good tenants whom I would rent to again. I believe most responsible business operators would agree and enjoy renting to veterans.

Furthermore, Maine law already prohibits discrimination based on source of income, including income derived from military service or military disability benefits. This is another reason why new regulations are unnecessary.

By threatening landlords with the Human Rights Commission, I see this bill as an attempt to compel private property owners into contractual agreements, regardless of their individual assessments of potential tenants. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court has previously upheld the right of private property owners to choose their tenants, as demonstrated in the case of

. There are concerns that this bill may be in violation of that ruling.

In conclusion, I believe that LD 521 addresses issues that are either already adequately covered by existing law or do not present a widespread problem. Furthermore, it infringes on the fundamental rights of private property owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Justin A. Giroux

Manager

Habitat For ME LLC

Fairfield, ME