



Consumer Council System of Maine
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

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March 10, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of Joint Standing Committee Judiciary,

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify **in support of LD 847**.

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

We strongly support LD 847, "An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination," which aims to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to protect individuals from housing discrimination based on their source of income. This legislation is a crucial step in ensuring equitable access to housing for all Maine residents, particularly those with low incomes.

This bill is especially consequential for individuals who rely on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Housing Choice Vouchers, or other forms of assistance. Too often, these Mainers are unfairly excluded from housing opportunities, further exacerbating homelessness, housing instability and stigma.

By prohibiting landlords from refusing rental applications based solely on income sources, this bill will ensure that all individuals, regardless of their financial situation, have equal access to safe and stable housing. Access to stable housing is a crucial aspect of mental and physical well-being. For individuals with mental health challenges, housing instability often intensifies their condition, making it more difficult to access the treatment and support they need. LD 847 will help eliminate one of the many barriers to stable housing that our most vulnerable populations face.

This bill aligns with the broader goals of fair housing by protecting individuals from discriminatory practices. It ensures that landlords consider all individuals based on their qualifications, rather than arbitrarily dismissing them based on their income source. LD 847 promotes equity that should be the foundation of housing policy. See this study for more information on the impacts of income discrimination: [Source of Income Discrimination and Fair Housing Policy](#)

We respectfully urge the Committee to **pass LD 847**, as it will ensure that individuals, regardless of their income source, are not discriminated against in their search for housing. By doing so, we will make significant strides in addressing housing instability and improving the quality of life for many underrepresented Maine residents.

Sincerely,



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Simonne M. Moline

Executive Director