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State of Maine - 132nd Legislature
Committee on Judiciary
Testimony of Andrew Lardie on behalf of Tedford Housing (Brunswick, Maine)

March 10, 2025

Supporting: LD 847, "An Act to Prevent Housing Discrimination"

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Andrew Lardie, and I am testifying on behalf of myself and my community in support of this legislation. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of LD 847, An Act to Prevent Housing Discrimination.

Housing vouchers are one of the most critical tools available to Tedford Housing as we pursue our mission of empowering people to move from homelessness to home. The vast majority of guests at our two emergency homeless shelters have incomes below 150% of the federal poverty line, and are eligible for subsidies to maintain stable housing. Unfortunately far too many landlords refuse to consider renting to our guests because of their status as voucher holders. We know this, because they state it openly. Discrimination by landlords adds significantly to the already scarce supply of housing options for people ready to exit shelters. With shelters like Tedford unable to exit guests, we have become nearly sclerotic, unable to function normally.

Many landlords maintain a high ethical standard as stewards of their property and their tenants wellbeing. However, the rise in absentee and corporate landlords, as well as plenty of local mom-and-pops who prioritize their own convenience, means that Maine needs to create a basic standard to which that landlords will be held. If LD 847 is passed and enforced, then agencies like mine will be more successful at stabilizing households after an emergency, allowing both that guest, and Tedford itself, to contribute to contribute fully to the community.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 847, so Maine's many low-income residents have a fair chance at stable living circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lardie
Executive Director



United Way of Mid Coast Maine
United Way of Androscoggin County

