

Phyllis Chinlund
Brunswick
LD 698

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee,
My name is Phyllis Chinlund, and I'm a resident of Brunswick, Maine.
I'm writing to support LD 698: An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine.

As a member of the Thornton Oaks Retirement Community Social Justice Group, I have been involved in the effort to upgrade Tedford Housing's emergency shelter, and of the critical need for such housing.

MaineHousing reports that a shelter bed in Maine costs \$102 a night to operate, yet the state's Shelter Operating Subsidy only provides Maine emergency shelters with \$7 a bed per night. This figure has remained the same since 2016, meanwhile Maine's emergency shelters have faced rising costs from inflation and had to expand services to keep communities safe during the pandemic. LD 698 will critically increase this contribution to \$18 a bed per night, helping to ensure Maine's emergency shelters remain open, accessible, and professionally operated.

Maine needs and deserves safe and accessible emergency shelters that can meet the needs of the growing number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our state. LD 698 will help to make this a reality.

Thank you.