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To the Committee: I am very much in support of increasing the state subsidy for the State's homelessness shelters from \$7.16 to \$19.00 per bed. Considering, per a recent study by MaineHousing, it costs approximately \$102.00 to operate one shelter bed for a night and that stagnant funding, record-high rates of homelessness and inflation have left shelters on the brink of closure, this increase must be approved. Maine's homelessness response system is in crisis & this bill is a small step in the right direction.

Thank you.