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LD 698

I am urging you to support LD 698. Every night, Maine's emergency shelters are full and have difficulty meeting current needs because of inadequate levels of funding from the state's Shelter Operating Subsidy. This subsidy provides only \$7 per night per bed, despite actual costs for shelters to offer these beds being at \$102 per night.

LD 698 would increase the subsidy somewhat to \$18 per night, which would be a crucial step to ensure shelters can stay open to meet the current overwhelming need for them. During ever more uncertain economic times and increasingly inaccessible housing markets in many parts of the state, it is important that Maine people have access to shelters and safe places to stay when faced with houselessness. Please support LD 698, and by extension, Maine's emergency shelters.