

Nancy Nickerson  
Portland  
LD 1029

I write today to express support for the passage of LD 1029. As a longtime Portland resident, homeowner and taxpayer, I realize that hundreds struggle to meet their basic needs for food and shelter. General Assistance helps to fill those gaps, and is often a complete lifeline for people. It is not a long-term program but is vital to help those in crisis get to a place of greater self-sufficiency and stability. LD 1029 would ensure that people needing the General Assistance program would receive enough funds to cover housing costs and other basic needs. This bill would also help municipalities cover some of the costs of shelter beds in their communities, thus reducing the risk of closure of current shelters, which are severely underfunded in our state. Please pass LD 1029; thank you for considering my testimony.