

Linda Stimpson
Portland
LD 1029

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am a resident of Portland, Maine, and I am urging you to support LD 1029. LD 1029 would ensure that Mainers on General Assistance would still be able to cover basic needs in addition to housing costs while on the GA program. This is of critical necessity.

The housing crisis and increased rates of homelessness are putting a strain on our shelter system. By extending eligibility from 30 days to 6 months, LD 1029 would help municipalities cover some of the costs of shelter beds in their communities. This would reduce the risk of closure of current shelters, which are severely underfunded.

Housing, food, and shelter are basic human rights. I urge you to support LD 1029 to ensure that Mainers and towns facing economic hardship get the help they need.