



Vote Yes!

LD 1017

Health and Human Services

“An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency
Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement”

Presented by

Senator Rachel Talbot Ross – democrat Cumberland

and with 8 democrats and 1 – I

April 10, 2025 - - - Bangor, Maine

Testimony by

Steven Christopher Sheppard

(submarine navy veteran/“write-in” Republican candidate for Governor of Maine 2026

Steven Sheppard
Bangor (ME)
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----- Vote Yes! -----

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When I lived in Cocoa Beach, Florida I remember all the hurricanes I have been through. I remember one hurricane that was very strong and potent; after the storm had passed everything was destroyed that was able to be blown around by hurricane force winds.

I had to evacuate to the mainland over the "Cocoa" Florida to the shelter at Valencia Community college and the UCF campus. We all got into a big classroom building; there was around 2400-3000 people I would imagine. The building was packed with public people.

The Red Cross needed volunteers badly; so I volunteered with a couple guys. No one wanted to volunteer! About 4 good men out of at least 1000. I thought that was insane!

So we unloaded boxes and boxes of food; apples, bread and peanut butter than was all we got to eat inside; people starved for four long days.

The building was trashed badly, the people become rude and the building stunk badly because there was no where to put the big piles of trash.

I was miserable.

Shelters need to think about this mission a little bit.

I know what happens in an emergency at a shelter.

- 1) Red Cross asks for volunteers (only about 4-5 volunteered; very few volunteers)
- 2) Trash piles up and stinks
- 3) Not enough food
- 4) The general public becomes unruly

These are the facts from someone like me that worked at the Red Cross shelters during a hurricane a long time ago.

Something to think about.

-----Vote Yes!-----

Steven C. Sheppard