

Livka Farrell
Rockland
LD 1522

I am writing in strong support of LD 1522 and making the Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) permanent. I'm delighted to see this effort to proactively prevent homelessness for Maine's most vulnerable communities!

I have volunteered and worked on the helpline at my local Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) for 18 months. Clients are searching for assistance with housing—including financial help to stay in their rentals!—far more than any other single service. Due to Maine's snowballing affordable housing crisis and chronically overwhelmed shelter system, once domestic violence survivors lose their rentals, it is a long, difficult, expensive, and time-consuming process to house them again! It will only become more complicated for DVRC's to help homeless survivors, unfortunately, as federal grants and other federal funds remain frozen.

In addition to victims of domestic violence, the EPP would benefit so many other Mainers, including: sexual assault survivors, families with children in the Child Protective Services system, low-wage workers, folks with medical debt, unemployed people, chronically-ill and mentally-ill individuals, disabled folks, seniors, and anyone living on a fixed income who has unexpected expenses that endanger their ability to pay rent.

Thank you for your work on this important issue!