

STATEMENT OF PATRICK CLANCY IN SUPPORT OF LD 1287

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Patrick Clancy and I live in Topsham. I am here today as a board member of Prosperity ME and chair of its Housing Committee as it seeks to move beyond providing support services to New Mainers and to creating more affordable housing to meet the needs for growth of our workforce. I have been an affordable housing professional for the last fifty years and in that capacity participated in the creation and implementation of a wide variety of housing initiatives.

I am writing in support of LD 1287, a bill that will promote housing and workforce stability. I believe - based on the work of ProsperityME and other organizations - that a Housing Stability Fund can be a highly efficient vehicle - much like "last dollar" scholarship programs - in providing a support system for those low income households challenged to remain decently housed by:

- enabling them to connect with advocates who can help them manage through housing crises they face and access resources needed to survive and stay housed; and
- providing the critical "last dollars" when other resources have been exhausted to assure continued access to housing.

The proven ability to leverage resources like the proposed fund in this fashion can enable limited resources to be of outsize value as a part of addressing the very immediate challenges so many of our families face - not in lieu of longer term funding solutions but as a valuable adjunct to them.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD1287 which can increase housing stability for Mainers at risk today.

APRIL 24, 2025