

Ann Dodd-Collins  
Portland  
LD 1522

Dear Senator Chip Curry, Representative Traci Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development,

My name is Ann Dodd-Collins and I live in Portland. I urge you to support LD 1522, "An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program". I am a volunteer with organizations serving new Mainers and I have been a volunteer at Preble Street for 9½ years.

The pilot program for Maine Eviction Prevention has proved successful, helping up to 1,600 low income families remain housed despite skyrocketing costs and paychecks that do not keep up with inflation. It will take years to build enough housing to reduce, or hopefully eliminate, the current housing crisis. Extending the EPP will help to assure the housing crisis does not become even more severe. Single parents, senior citizens on fixed incomes, people with disabilities trying to live on supplemental social security (a dicey prospect these days), and those who work essential but low paying jobs, do not deserve to lose their housing because costs have risen and are rising so dramatically. Helping them to stay housed is cost effective and pays dividends in the long run.

I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1522.  
Thank you.