

Laurie Brooks  
Dover Foxcroft  
LD 1522

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Good Afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Laurie Brooks, I am a resident of DoverFoxcroft.

I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1522, An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program. I'm a survivor of homelessness. Just before and after this, I was having major health issues with cancer in which time I almost passed. I had a choice, a home or medical care to live.

At that time, I also had two toddlers and was a single parent. I wish we changed our view a long time ago and supported people like myself. A program like the Maine Eviction Prevention Program would have made all the difference for me, my health, and my family. You see, it ended up that they lived with their father after I lost my home, and my children were never the same after. Yes I lived, I survived but at what cost to the children, and to my soul? It caused deep depression and a life filled with trauma for myself and others, so here I am still wanting change so others don't suffer like we did. Preventing homelessness should be a top priority for this legislature and LD 1522 is one important way to do that. Safe homes can't wait.

When you plant good seed, you grow a field of flowers, so plant your greatest seed for a rich harvest! In closing I urge you to pass LD 1522. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Laurie Brooks  
Dover-Foxcroft