

DATE: May 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Support for LD 1328 – An Act to Create Housing and Recovery Services for LGBTQIA+ Individuals

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

On behalf of Agape, Inc. and its Board of Directors, my name is Sherrie Winton, and I am writing from Portland, Maine, to express our strong support for LD 1328: An Act to Create Housing and Recovery Services for LGBTQIA+ Individuals in the state of Maine.

At Agape, we believe that access to safe, affirming, and stable housing is a basic human right and is essential to recovery, quality of life, and overall well-being. LD 1328 aligns deeply with our mission and values, including:

- The importance of treatment upon demand
- The need for medical amnesty legislation in Maine
- The belief that people who use drugs deserve dignity and compassion
- The recognition that drug use is a public health issue, not a criminal one
- The support for safe consumption sites, where individuals can use substances with supervision and care

LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly those in recovery, face unique and complex barriers to accessing safe, supportive housing. Trauma-informed and culturally responsive recovery environments are critical for healing and long-term stability. Yet these resources are too often scarce, inaccessible, or not reflective of the lived realities that LGBTQIA+ people may face.

LD 1328 represents a monumental step forward in addressing these inequities by expanding access to housing and recovery services grounded in compassion, empathy, and practical support.

We believe that the passage of this bill would signal a meaningful shift toward greater equity and dignity for all people in Maine, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Agape, Inc. is proud to support this legislation and is ready to advocate for its implementation.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to building a more inclusive and compassionate Maine.

Sincerely,

Agape, Inc., Written on behalf of Agape's
Board of Directors
25 Middle Street
Portland, Maine 04101

