

## **REVISED**

### Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

#### In Opposition to

#### *LD 1946, An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers*

May 15, 2025

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting revised testimony in opposition to LD 1946 since our Legislative Policy Committee established its position on May 14.

Municipal leaders most familiar with the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) strongly oppose the proposal in LD 1946 for two reasons. First, there is not enough funding to support the housing needs of those who are currently eligible for BRAP vouchers. Expanding the pool of eligible candidates without appropriate funding will serve only to expand waiting lists. Second, the BRAP and recovery residences models are not designed to achieve the same outcomes, which drives current eligibility standards. While BRAP is intended to help individuals find permanent and independent housing, recovery residences are structured to provide support services within a congregate housing model.

From the municipal perspective, if the Legislature is interested in financially supporting recovery residences, then a different program should be designed to do so.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.