



MILESTONE
RECOVERY

Help and Hope for
Homelessness and
Substance Use.

February 9, 2026

Chair and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

Milestone Recovery respectfully submits this testimony in support of LD 2124, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax. Milestone operates an adult low-barrier Emergency Shelter that is full every night. Last year alone, we served 430 unhoused adults from across Maine, including 237 people who were chronically unhoused, and we provided 13,574 bed nights to those guests. Over the last 12 months, we have served individuals from 110 different zip codes across the state. That reality underscores a key point for this Committee. Emergency shelter is a regional, statewide safety net. When shelters are stable, people can come inside, connect with services, and take concrete steps toward recovery and housing. When shelters are chronically underfunded, the impact extends far beyond one municipality, shifting costs and consequences to neighboring communities, counties, hospitals, EMS, and public safety systems.

LD 2124 would provide the predictable operating support that shelters need to do more than keep the lights on. It would help ensure shelters can consistently function as an effective front door to recovery and stability. At Milestone, shelter is often the first safe point of contact for adults experiencing homelessness alongside substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Stable funding supports the staffing and day-to-day operations required to maintain a safe environment, build trust, and deliver warm handoffs into Milestone's continuum of care, including street outreach, medically monitored withdrawal management (detox), residential treatment, outpatient medication management, and housing navigation. The one-year enhancement in 2025 made a real difference, but it was temporary and did not address the underlying problem of chronic underfunding. Tying shelter support to a stable revenue stream like the Real Estate Transfer Tax would allow providers to plan responsibly, retain trained staff, and stay focused on recovery-oriented engagement and housing-focused outcomes rather than operating in constant crisis mode.

Emergency Shelter | 65 India St. Portland, ME 04101

Residential Treatment Services | 28 Portland Ave. Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Medically Monitored Detox, Residential & Outpatient Services | 10 Andover Rd. Portland ME 04102

Milestone Recovery urges the Committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 2124. This bill would strengthen Maine’s emergency shelter system by replacing short-term patches with a sustainable solution that grows over time, supports regional service delivery, and helps ensure Maine does not lose additional shelter beds or facilities due to operating deficits.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McNally", written over a horizontal line.

Joe McNally, Director of Homeless Services