



Testimony of Marge Kilkelly for Legal Services for Maine Elders to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
February 19, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am here today on behalf of Legal Services for Maine Elders. For over 50 years LSE has provided free legal help statewide for Mainers aged 60 and older when their basic human needs are at stake. Our clients are generally low-income, some with medically complex conditions.

**I am speaking in Support of LD 2140 An Act to Reduce Household Energy Costs in Response to Federal Cuts**

LSE works every day with older, low income consumers who are struggling with housing issues, including high utility costs and health crises that are the result of cold or otherwise unsafe housing conditions.

As of December 31, 2025 the federal government has ended the federal tax credit for Home Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit; it was supposed to extend to 2032. We are very disappointed in the loss of this program and appreciate Senator Tepler bringing this issue forward as a state tax credit.

Maine has the oldest housing stock in the nation. Many older Mainers live in the homes that they have nearly or fully paid for. Those homes can be cold and drafty during long Maine winters.

This program begins with an energy audit which many homeowners have never done. This helps identify the homes issues and prioritize the work to be done. Too often homeowners either accept that their home is cold in the winter or assume they know what work is required.

Replacing windows and doors to make a home more energy efficient also means that the homeowner saves money on electricity and fuel bills- which is especially critical for the 36% of residents over the age of 60 have an average annual income of \$20,000 or less

Please pass LD 2140.

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR MAINE ELDERS, INC.**  
**5 Wabon Street, Augusta, Maine 04333**  
**(207) 621-0087 Fax (207) 621-0742**  
**Offices in Augusta, Bangor, Lewiston, Biddeford and Presque Isle**  
**LSE Helpline 1-800-750-5353 (Voice/TTY)**  
[www.mainelse.org](http://www.mainelse.org)