



February 19th, 2026

Testimony neither for nor against LD2212: An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, and I work as the Policy Director at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement working throughout rural and suburban Maine to win human dignity, equity and a liveable future for all. I am writing today on behalf of my organization to urge you to fully fund emergency rental assistance in the Eviction Prevention Program.

It is no secret that ICE's recent surge has brought fear and chaos to our state. Each day has brought unpredictability to the lives of so many Maine residents, as they decide what is the safest for themselves or their families; go to work? Go to school? Risk losing their income or education, or risk a sudden and violent abduction. Understandably, many have decided that their safest option is to stay home from work or school, thereby losing their income and jeopardizing their ability to pay rent.

In the midst of this chaos, it is more important than ever to fully fund the emergency rental assistance in the Eviction Prevention Program. This funding will be the difference between a wave of evictions and stabilizing a chaotic episode that the federal government has brought Maine. We must stand with those most affected by the federal government's violence and intimidation. I urge you to fully fund emergency rental assistance in the Eviction Prevention Program.

Sincerely,
Eli Durand-McDonnell