

Liz McLellan
Project Home
LD 2212

Liz Eisele McLellan
Project Home - Eviction Prevention Program Coordinator
Resident of Westbrook, ME

Re: FY2026-2027 Supplemental Budget (HP1491, LD2212)

Dear Chairs and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee:

Hi, my name is Liz Eisele McLellan. I work for Project Home, and am the Program Coordinator for the current pilot of the Eviction Prevention Program that launched in October of 2024. I am also the founder and chair of the Westbrook Community Housing Coalition. Today, I am urging you to consider the great need in our state for continued support for Eviction Prevention funding.

The impact that the pilot Eviction Prevention Program has had on Mainers' lives has been real. It's been important and it's been needed. And it is still needed, and so I hope, as you are looking at all of the different options for how you can continue to support the people of Maine that are struggling, that are afraid of becoming homeless, that are afraid of sleeping in tents, living in their cars, trying to explain to their children why they can't have sleepovers, trying to navigate medical procedures when they don't know if they're gonna have a place to go home to, trying to stay sober while dealing with the trauma of also becoming unhoused. I hope that you are able to see the vital importance of continuing to fund eviction prevention programs.

The Eviction Prevention Program helped keep over 1200 families in their homes, which is amazing. Since the program closed to new applications in June of 2025, we have received countless calls and emails from fellow neighbors asking if we can help them. We've had to say no. These folks and the more than 150 people still on the waitlist are holding out hope that support is on the horizon.

Recently, we've seen an increase in need, and Project Home, alongside other non-profit and community initiatives, has stepped in with the Emergency Housing Fund. While we have been able to quickly and efficiently help many of the EHF applicants, there is a much longer list of folks that we will not have funds to support.

The impact when a family cannot stay in their home is far greater than just housing. It affects everyone's mental health, their children's ability to focus and learn in school, and the landlord's ability to pay their mortgage. Continuing to support Mainers in a time of crisis will continue to have positive lasting effects and I hope you will seriously consider investing in that. Thank you.