



*creating pathways to stable housing, better health, and financial security*

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*Testimony on behalf of **Project HOME in Support of LD 2212, 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***

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee; Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Victoria Morales, and I am the Executive Director of Project Home

**Project Home**'s mission is to build pathways to stable housing, better health, and financial security for Maine's low-income individuals and families. In a state where 85% of rental housing is privately owned and tens of thousands of below-market units are needed to meet demand, Project Home's model bridges the gap. We partner with more than 1,000 landlords statewide to underwrite leases, pay rental arrears, and provide renters with targeted healthcare and employment supports that both prevent eviction and build long-term housing stability. Our work primarily serves working-class, low-income households – most often children and families – who lack access to housing vouchers and who are short of a few months of rent each year.

As the administrator of the State's Eviction Prevention Program that has worked in tandem with Maine's legal service providers to prevent approximately 1,300 evictions statewide, we understand the legal barriers that threaten housing stability and overall well-being. **When it comes to preventing evictions, access to civil legal representation together with financial assistance to relieve rental arrears are critical to achieving housing stability.**

For these reasons, we urge you to support amending LD 2212 to continue the \$3 million investment in civil legal services and to replenish Maine's Eviction Prevention Program pursuant to LD 1522 to ensure that Maine's most vulnerable residents can access justice and maintain housing stability.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vict Morales".

Victoria Morales