



Raise-Op Housing Cooperative
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3/11/2026

Testimony in favor of LD 2176

*An Act to Safeguard Personal Information and
Strengthen Tenant Rights in Maine*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Craig Saddlemire, and I am the Development Organizer for the Raise-Op Housing Cooperative in Lewiston, Maine. Founded in 2008, we are Maine's oldest, urban, multi-unit housing cooperative. Today, we own 5 apartment buildings, home to 33 different households, and 90 residents. We also provide technical assistance to new housing cooperatives and seek to promote more resident ownership of housing throughout Maine.

As an organization that manages housing and collects private information about our residents in order to properly process their applications for housing, we understand the immense amount of power that property owners have over their tenants. While receiving this private information is necessary for property managers to determine if the applicant will be a successful tenant - and also to comply with conditional funding sources - it puts the tenant in a very vulnerable position that is unique to the experience of renting a home. Landlords vary widely in their beliefs about privacy, their respect for their tenants, and their sense of professional responsibility. We believe strongly that tenants should not be vulnerable to the personal whims of their landlords when it comes to how private information is used against them. Private information could be used for retaliation. It could be used to force an out-of-court eviction. It could be used to force tenants to accept unsafe living conditions. It could also be used to prevent someone from moving if they so desired. And it could be shared with otherwise unauthorized parties.

For these reasons, we urge committee members to vote in favor of LD 2176. This bill creates a safeguard for tenants that prevents landlords from abusing their access to private information about their tenants.

Please be in touch with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Saddlemire".

Craig Saddlemire
Cooperative Development Organizer
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