



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION (MIRC)  
Supporting L.D. 1675, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the General Assistance  
Program Regarding Eligibility, Housing Assistance, and State Reimbursement and to  
Establish a Working Group**

Sponsor Representative Michael Brennan  
Public Hearing Friday, May 5, 2023 at 10 00am

Chair Baldacci, Chair Meyer, Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

My name is Tobin Williamson I live in Lewiston and I am the Advocacy Manager with the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), a statewide network of almost 100 member organizations working to enhance the lives of Maine's immigrant communities MIRC works to advance systemic changes in Maine through collaborative advocacy to ensure that voices of the state's large, diverse, and growing immigrant communities are heard

L D 1675 proposes a number of changes to the General Assistance program that we feel are solid ideas For example, it changes the application renewal period for all types of G A from monthly to every six months, reducing the time burden for both applicants and administrators It changes the reimbursement rate to municipalities to 90% instead of 70%, easing the financial burden for Maine's municipalities that are struggling the most with soaring costs Finally, a new working group will be formed in order to make recommendations about making the G A program more consistent in each town and more efficient in helping with housing costs All this sounds good to us!

We are proud to support L D 1675 and hope you will do the same Thank you very much for your consideration of this important issue

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