

Hello Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and member of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Lisa Franklin and I'm an advocate with HVJ . You might recognize me from testifying a few other times. I'm here today to testify in support of this program because quite frankly it saved my life. I am one of the very fortunate and grateful participants of the H.O.U.S.E. program. I became homeless in December of 2019 after fleeing domestic violence that started after I remarried. I was already in recovery from Opioid addiction after going to rehab and beginning Suboxone treatment and counseling. But after having to flee that situation I knew I was in an extremely vulnerable place in my life and the H.O.U.S.E. program provided the support that I desperately needed to continue my recovery and start to rebuild my life. Although, med management, counseling services, and housing placement assistance was invaluable it was the case management services that really provided the continued support that has allowed me to get my life back. I am a mother, a daughter, a friend ,a worker and a child of Maine. Without their support I truly believe I would not be standing here in front of you today. The opioid epidemic created a situation that has left the country reeling in its aftermath. Programs like the house program truly do start to help repair that wreckage.

Thank you.