Testimony in support of LD 1710 Grace Vanuza Rogers 12 May 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Geer and members of the Housing Committee, my name is Grace vanuza Rogers and I am here to testify in support of the HOME Act, LD 1710.

I'm a resident of South Portland Maine and this bill it's so important for me because of the people I serve daily.I'm a community case manager, cultural broker and I'm bringing today a few stories that to reinforce how LD1710 it's important:

I will call her Manbo, a Widowed seeking asylum with 5 kids living in a small hotel room . Have been looking for permanent housing for more than a year . GA budget is so low that she is being turned down in several apartments at this point she is hopeless and with the fear that she has to move out the hotel room she is in by the end of June the stress, anxiety from the daily uncertainty it's causing her kids to not focus in school. If LD1710 is approved it will help more than 100 families in this similar situation. We need to work together to find a solution that will help and bring some hope and house stability for this families.

I urge you all to make the decision that will impact the life of those vulnerable families.

Thank you

Grace vanuza Rogers