



43 Gabriel Drive, Post Office Box 587  
Augusta, ME 04332-0587

t: 207.622.7524 | f: 207.622.0836

[www.MaineFamilyPlanning.org](http://www.MaineFamilyPlanning.org)  
[info@MaineFamilyPlanning.org](mailto:info@MaineFamilyPlanning.org)

Testimony in Support of LD 2146,  
“An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters”  
January 30, 2024

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Laura Harper, Senior Associate at Moose Ridge Associates, and I am testifying in support of LD 2146 on behalf of my client Maine Family Planning. As a reproductive health provider deeply committed to the well-being of individuals and families, Maine Family Planning finds it imperative to emphasize the critical importance of preventing municipalities, particularly in Maine, from enacting moratoriums on emergency shelter. The intersectionality of reproductive health and housing stability cannot be overstated, as individuals facing housing insecurity are more vulnerable to a myriad of health risks, including those related to reproductive well-being.

Emergency shelters serve as a lifeline during times of crisis. In the context of reproductive health, ensuring stable housing is fundamental to promoting positive outcomes for individuals and families. The stressors associated with homelessness or inadequate housing can exacerbate existing reproductive health challenges, compounding the physical and mental health burden on vulnerable populations.

Maine, with its unique geographic and demographic characteristics, demands a tailored approach to address the housing needs of its residents, particularly in the realm of emergency shelter. Moratoriums on such shelters not only jeopardize the immediate safety of individuals but also undermine the long-term reproductive health outcomes of those affected.

Collaboration between municipal authorities, community organizations, and reproductive health providers is crucial to crafting comprehensive solutions that address both the immediate housing crisis and the broader reproductive health implications. By safeguarding access to emergency shelters, we can create an environment that nurtures the well-being of individuals and ensures that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. It is my fervent hope that Maine takes proactive measures to protect its residents, recognizing the inextricable link between housing stability and reproductive health. For these reasons and more, we urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2146. Thank you.