

**Nichols, Jackson**

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**From:** Allison Edwards <ak.allison@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:49 PM  
**To:** HHS  
**Subject:** Correct LD 1877 Testimony

**This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.**

Hi, so sorry. I meant to include in the previous email that I was speaking with Annie and trying to register online to testify for LD 1877. Annie said to email this to you to be registered.

Thank you for your time!

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**From:** Allison Edwards <ak.allison@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:47 PM  
**To:** hhs@legislature.maine.gov  
**Subject:** LD 1877 Testimony

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Allison Edwards, I live in Portland, and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1877.

I am a single parent who balances raising my daughter with working and attending college. My top priority for my family is to have safe and secure housing so I can provide a nurturing environment for my three-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

I am allotted the Special Need Housing Allowance, but it is not enough. Every year, the property owner of my apartment building raises the rent "to the current restricted rent level for the area." Despite the annual rental increases, there has been no change in the allotment made for our shelter expenses, I have been spread thin in my roles as a caregiver, a student, an employee, and a member of our community. To compensate for the increased rent, I resorted to taking on more student debt so I could pursue my education to raise my family out of poverty.

How is it fair that a low-income housing unit is allowed a guaranteed increase in their rent annually, but the low-income family paying the rent has no guaranteed increase in their income? It's robbing Peter to pay Paul. In the same arena, my daughter's out-of-pocket daycare expenses are also increasing. My employment and status as a student rely on her attendance at the center, and again there is no increase in income.

As a single mother pursuing higher education, my family's financial stability depends on an increase in assistance that is in line with the increase in the cost of living.

Thank you for your time.