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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of

LD 215, *An Act to Establish a Program
to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences*

March 10, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 215 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

This session, the LPC proactively established a platform of bills intended to bolster and support the property taxpayers of Maine. Through initiatives across the legislative board, they are committed to protecting the interests of their residents and to reducing the burden of property taxes.

LD 215 supports these priorities by providing direct property tax relief, through the creation of a recovery residence rental assistance program established within the Department of Health and Human Services. By removing funding for recovery residences under the General Assistance program, taxpayers would no longer be responsible for the statutorily required 30% of those costs.

Support for this change would have been even greater had the measure included all certified recovery residences, not just those with 20 or more beds. While simple math dictates that a larger residence incurs more overall cost, the costs associated with smaller recovery residence housing should not be overlooked as there are economies of scale to be had in larger facilities and regardless of the number of dollars invested, the reimbursed portion of aid provided impacts the taxpayers in those communities as well.

Municipal officials recognize that the General Assistance program needs review and are supportive of a process that concludes with a program suited to meeting the needs of Maine's neediest residents, municipalities and the administration.

Thank you for your consideration of the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact any member of the LPC or the MMA Advocacy team with any questions relating to municipal operations.