

Testimony in Support of LD 641, "An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine"

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and the esteemed members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is **Nicole Frydrych**, and I am the **Homeless Response Coordinator** for Hub 6, which encompasses all of Kennebec and Somerset Counties, within Maine's Homeless Response System. I am also currently a Co-Chair for both the Maine Continuum of Care's Homeless Diversion and Resource Committees. Today, I stand before you to express our strong support for LD 641, "An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine," sponsored by Representative Marc Malon, which seeks to allocate critical funding to the Housing Problem Solving Program.

As echoed in previous testimonies, our current homeless prevention programs, like the Housing Problem Solving Program, have shown commendable success in cost-effectiveness and early intervention. However, currently this resource runs out far too quickly and is not able to meet the true need.

Our system as it is currently is broken. In **Hub 6**, during the last 3 months, we have recorded an inflow of **137** individuals and families entering our homeless response system, compared to an outflow of only **112 individuals and families**. Since the beginning of 2025, we have had **7** of those individuals return to the homeless system from being housed. We are working diligently across the state to fix the system from its current state and make homelessness rare and infrequent. A large part of that solution is prevention and diversion, no homeless response system functions without this piece of the puzzle playing a significant part.

With this proposed funding from LD 641, the providers within the system could significantly amplify their intervention strategies. Specifically, within Hub 6 this funding can assist in, Extending more substantial direct client assistance for urgent housing needs, not limited to rental assistance, as well as, implementing targeted outreach programs to identify and assist at-risk populations before they lose their housing. Meeting people where they are at before they are unable to sustain housing.

I urge you to support LD 641, to strengthen our capacity to combat homelessness effectively and compassionately across Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I am happy to answer any questions you might have.