

March 25,2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Laurie Brooks, I am a resident of Dover-Foxcroft. I am here today to testify **in favor of LD 748: An Act to Increase Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Voucher Funding to Reduce the Current Partial Waiting List and Increase Housing Vouchers for Persons Living with Mental Health Challenges**

I'm a survivor of homelessness. Just before and after this, I was having major health issues with cancer in which time I almost passed. I had a choice, a home or medical care to live. At that time, I also had two toddlers and was a single parent. I wish we changed our view a long time ago and supported people like myself. You see, it ended up that they lived with their father after I lost my home, and my children were never the same after. Yes I lived, but at what cost to the children, and to my soul? It caused deep depression, and a life filled with trauma for myself and others, so here I am still wanting change so others don't suffer like we did. When you plant good seed, you grow a field of flowers, so plant your greatest seed for a rich harvest!

In closing I urge you to pass **LD 748**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurie Brooks

Dover-Foxcroft