



Good morning, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee,

My name is Fatuma Hussein, and I appreciate the opportunity to address you today on behalf of the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine.

I am here to advocate for LD 1287, a transformative bill and critical legislative proposal aimed at addressing Maine's housing crisis while simultaneously enhancing workforce development. This bill represents a timely intervention that aligns closely with our mission at the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine and supports the diverse populations we serve.

Maine is grappling with a significant housing crisis that necessitates our immediate action and collective resolve. Families and individuals are struggling under the crushing weight of economic uncertainty, while we stand on the brink of a labor shortage that threatens our future prosperity. LD 1287 offers us a powerful opportunity to tackle these intertwined issues head-on.

The bill's provisions are focused on empowering families to obtain stable housing, fostering self-sufficiency, and stimulating our state's economy. We have a vibrant and driven younger demographic ready to enter the workforce, while employers throughout Maine are in need of reliable and skilled labor. Establishing stable housing for our residents is not just important; it is essential for nurturing a sustainable workforce.

Crucially, LD 1287 is designed to serve all Maine residents, not solely immigrants. It reflects our shared commitment to community solidarity and our collective obligation to assist those facing challenges. By concerted working to prevent homelessness, we can build resilient and cohesive communities. A thriving economy in Maine necessitates the collective growth of our populace and workforce. Supporting our most vulnerable citizens in meeting fundamental needs—housing and employment—empowers them to significantly contribute to the state's economic landscape.

Given these pressing considerations, I strongly encourage your support for LD 1287, thereby reinforcing your commitment to enhancing the well-being of all residents in Maine.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.