

Augusta, Maine 4/25/2025

**Testimony from a Church Pastor – In Support of LD 1287**

Good morning, honorable chairs, respected committee members.

I am Dr. Bertrand D. MOUBAGOU, I am a Pastor, and Board Member at Connect Church in Auburn Maine, led by Pastor Zachary Dickey. I come before you today as a faith leader, a neighbor, a full-time employee, a tenant, an immigrant, and a witness to the everyday struggles of the people in our community.

I am here to express my strong support for LD 1287, a bill that will support housing stability and advance workforce development in Maine. I respectfully urge you to support LD 1287, to pass this crucial bill for all Mainers.

Every week, I speak with families who are working hard often working multiple jobs yet still find themselves unable to keep up with the rising cost of housing. I have prayed with parents terrified of losing their homes. I have seen the stress in the eyes of children who don't know where they'll be sleeping next week. And I have witnessed the quiet heartbreak of seniors choosing between rent and medicine.

As a pastor, I believe deeply that everyone deserves the dignity of a stable home. Scripture teaches us to *"defend the cause of the poor and the needy."* And in today's world, that means supporting practical policies that lift up those who are being left behind.

LD 1287 is not just about housing, it's about hope, health, and opportunity. By helping families maintain stable housing, we're not just offering a roof, we're supporting education, mental health, job security, and community strength.

This fund will be a lifeline for many in our state. It is a smart investment in our workforce and a moral investment in our people.

So, I ask you, please vote in favor of LD 1287 and show the people of Maine that we will not turn our backs on them in their time of need.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration. May GOD bless you all.