

Augusta, Maine 4/25/2025

Testimony from – A Student in Support of LD 1287

Good morning, esteemed committee members. My name is Marco Sousa and I'm a student here in Maine. I'm here today to speak in support of LD 1287, because even though I'm still in school, I know what it's like when housing isn't stable, and I know I'm not the only one.

I've seen friends who move from place to place because their families can't afford rent. I've done homework in crowded living rooms and noisy shelters. And I've seen how hard it is to focus on class when your biggest worry is where you'll sleep at night.

But thanks to LD 1287, I finally had a chance to breathe. This funding helped me find a safe place to live and helped cover rent while I volunteered at Immigrant Resource Center of Maine and focused on school. I remember one night, sitting at a table in my own space for the first time in a long time, being able to focus on my homework. That might sound small, but it felt like the first step toward a future I could finally see.

LD 1287 would help families like mine and so many others have a better chance of staying in their homes. And that means students like me can have a better chance at staying focused, graduating, and planning for a future we can believe in.

Stable housing and a stable workforce mean better grades, better health, and a better chance to grow up without fear.

So, I'm asking you, from the perspective of a young person who's living this right now, to please vote to pass LD 1287. Help us stay in our homes so we can stay in school and keep building our lives here in Maine.

Thank you for listening and for caring.