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**Testimony In Support of LD 2124  
An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding  
Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax**

**February 10, 2026**

**Presented by: Rosalani Moore, Executive Director, H.O.M.E. Inc.**

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Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee. My name is Rosalani Moore. I am the Executive Director of H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, serving families and individuals across Hancock County as well as surrounding Washington, Waldo, and Penobscot Counties. I am also someone who has personally experienced homelessness. I am here today in strong support of LD 2124.

Last year, when I testified before this Committee in support of LD 698, we talked about the numbers. The \$102 per night cost to provide shelter and services—compared to the \$7.16 shelters receive for operations. Aside from a one-time increase last session—thank you—and yet that ongoing gap has not changed. And neither has the reality behind it.

I share my story again because it reflects what we see every day. At 22, my mother died suddenly, and I became responsible for my four younger siblings. We weren't homeless because of lack of education or ability to work. We were homeless because we fell through the cracks of a broken safety net. but we were actually lucky, we were lucky because a shelter was there to give us safety, stability, and the support we needed to move out of crisis towards stability at a critical moment. That experience is why I am standing here today with such conviction.

And why I know firsthand that Maine cannot afford more cracks in our fragile network of support.

Shelters do far more than provide a roof. During crisis we stabilize families, assess barriers, connect people to services, building pathways to permanent housing and community. But we cannot do that work if we cannot afford to keep our doors open.

Since I last testified, conditions have grown more difficult. Affordable housing is scarce, vouchers are disappearing, and rents remain high. As a result, people are staying longer in shelter. At H.O.M.E., the average stay increased from 62 days in 2024 to over 70 days in 2025. For families or individuals with medical or mobility challenges, stays often last many months because there is simply nowhere else to go. When people stay longer, we are forced to turn more people away.

And in rural Maine, there are no backups. When rural shelters are forced to close, people don't move down the street to another program. They sleep in cars, in the woods, or in unheated

campers—or they end up in far more costly systems like hospitals and jails. Our shelters are not just a resource. They are the safety net of last resort.

LD 2124 provides predictable, ongoing funding that recognizes emergency shelters as critical infrastructure for our state. Shelters are a lifeline. I know this because one was there for me.

And the alternative is simply unacceptable.

I urge you to support LD 2124. This bill is an investment in safety, stability, and the future of Maine's people. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.