

Testimony of Pam Morin  
Executive Director, Family Violence Project  
In Support of LD 2124

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, esteemed members of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, my name is Pam Morin, and I am here today in strong support of LD 2124.

Family Violence Project operates two emergency shelters for survivors of domestic violence in Somerset and Kennebec Counties. For the adults and children who come to us, our shelters are often the last safe option. Survivors arrive frightened, exhausted, and often with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. In those moments, what we offer is safety, dignity, and the chance to begin again.

Every week, our staff walk alongside survivors as they take the first steps out of violence. We help them find long-term safe housing, we keep our buildings secure, and we make sure basic needs are met, food, heat, and a safe place to sleep. This work is lifesaving, and it must be there when survivors need it.

LD 2124 creates a dedicated, ongoing funding source for shelter operations by directing a portion of the real estate transfer tax to the Maine State Housing Authority's shelter operating subsidy program. It does so without raising taxes. Most importantly, it recognizes that safe housing is essential to survival, and it ensures that support for shelters is stable and reliable.

Operating costs are our greatest and most vulnerable expense. Staffing, utilities, safety systems, and a substantial increased rent anticipated for our Somerset Shelter puts a constant strain on our budget and threatens the long-term viability of that shelter. These costs don't pause when a grant ends or fundraising falls short. They are there every day. This bill helps close that gap and gives us the stability we need to keep our doors open.

The demand for shelter remains high. Over the past year, it increased by 18 percent. In 2025, we provided more than 6,000 bed nights and sheltered 46 adults and 33 children impacted by domestic violence. When shelter beds are unavailable, survivors and their children face increased risk of serious harm or homicide. That is the reality we see, and it is one we work every day to prevent.

LD 2124 strengthens the system that protects people at their most vulnerable moment. We urge you to support this bill and invest in safety, stability, and hope for survivors and their children.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2124 ! Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to Maine communities.