
Testimony of Hanna Gregory on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Speaking in Support of LD 2124: “An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using
Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax.”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Date of Public Hearing: February 9, 2026

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Hanna Gregory, and I am the Housing Services Coordinator at the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)¹, testifying in support of LD 2124: An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Together, Maine’s regional domestic violence resource centers operate 12 emergency shelters across the state, 11 of which are funded by Maine State Housing Authority’s Emergency Shelter and Housing Program (ESHAP). DVRC shelters account for 27% of all ESHAP funded shelters, and some of the DV shelters are the only non-tribal emergency shelter in their county. To support shelter operations, DVRCs receive funding through MaineHousing’s Emergency Shelter and Housing Program (ESHAP), and LD 2124 would provide much needed support.

Survivors of domestic violence meet HUD’s Category 4 definition of homelessness if the following is true:

Any individual or family who:

1. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee domestic violence;
2. Has no other residence; and
3. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

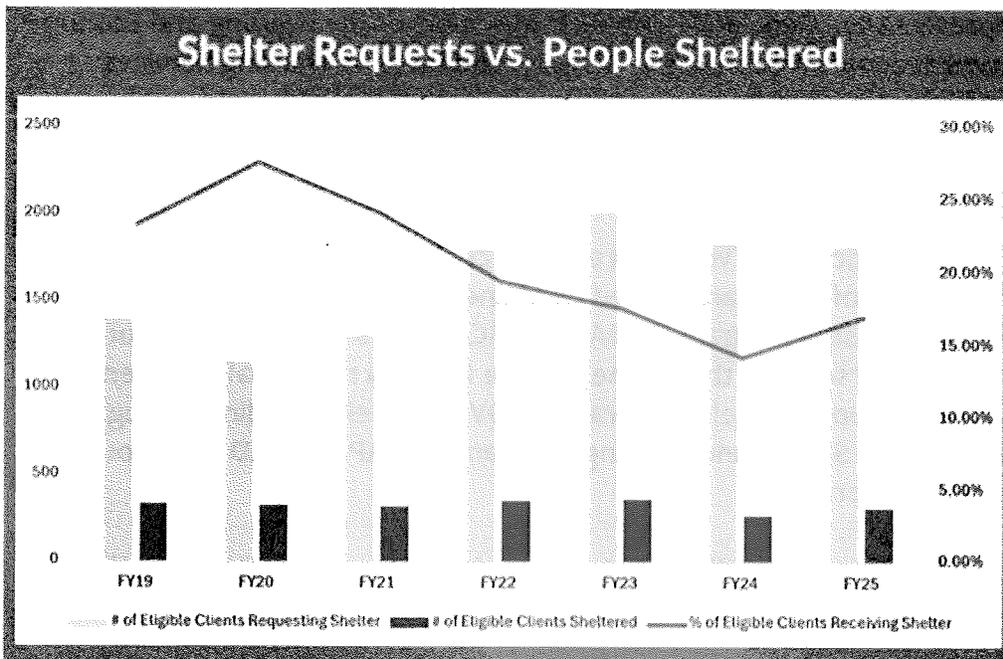
Many survivors reaching out for support and services in Maine meet this definition, as 99% of survivors experience some form of economic abuse and would be homeless if they were to leave their partner.² However, in 2025, Maine’s DVRCs were able to shelter only 17% of the

¹ MCEDV represents a membership of the eight regional domestic violence resource centers across Maine as well as two culturally specific service providers. Last year, our programs provided services to more than 11,800 survivors of domestic abuse and violence and their children in our state.

² Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. (2019). A Report on the Impact of Economic Abuse on Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Maine [Review of A Report on the Impact of Economic Abuse on Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Maine]. https://www.mcedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Economic-Abuse-Report_FINAL.pdf

2,641 survivors who reached out seeking emergency shelter. In total, DVRCs provided 28,176 emergency shelter bed nights for 339 adult survivors and 199 children. The number of shelter requests each year for many years far surpasses the number of survivors our network is able to bring into shelter. Maine’s DV shelters are essential to the safety of one of Maine’s most vulnerable populations and these shelters are oftentimes homicide prevention. Without additional funding, the ability to sustain our existing emergency shelter capacity is precarious.

Picture 1: “FY25 Data Dashboard” MCEDV.³



“Maine’s Plan to End and Address Homelessness” acknowledges victims of domestic violence as one of the five groups of people experiencing homelessness in Maine.⁴ Many survivors that seek emergency shelter services are fleeing for their lives. People that use abuse and violence tend to stalk their partner, which continues to instill fear in the person attempting to leave. This period is often the most dangerous for a survivor, and someone is more likely to be killed after they take step to separate (75% of women who are killed by a partner are killed after or during the process of leaving).

³ Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. (2026). *FY25 Annual Data Dashboard* [Review of *FY25 Annual Data Dashboard*]. https://www.mcedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/FY25-Annual-Data-Dashboard_FINAL.pdf

⁴ Maine Statewide Homeless Council. (2011). *Maine’s Plan to End & Prevent Homelessness* [Review of *Maine’s Plan to End & Prevent Homelessness*]. https://www.mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/policy-research/research-reports/homeless-reports/homeless-reports-archive/maines-plan-to-end-and-prevent-homelessness.pdf?sfvrsn=4765d015_7



The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

101 Western Ave.
P.O. Box 5188
Augusta, ME 04332-5188
207.430.8334

Maine's regional DVRCs are equipped to answer these calls in the middle of the night, respond to the experiences of the survivor in a trauma-informed way, and work with a survivor to create a plan for their safety and to begin to address their needs. For some, this means coming into an emergency shelter. One aspect of Domestic Violence Resource Center shelters that sets them apart from other general homeless shelters is the need for an additional, particular kind of security. DVRC shelters need additional locks and security cameras and have safety protocols to ensure that the location remains confidential and secure. Passing LD 2124 would provide these eleven shelters with the funds needed to preserve this essential security.

This bill provides a critical increase in ongoing funds for emergency homeless shelters, which provide the initial emergency shelter assistance for unhoused people in Maine. Approving this bill will help Maine's domestic violence shelters:

- Maintain their shelters;
- Pay for rent, fuel, insurance, and utilities;
- Support adequate security;
- Offer nourishing food to adults and children;
- Provide the shelter with necessary furniture, equipment, and supplies;
- Sustain shelter staff.

I ask you to prioritize the survivors of domestic abuse and violence who are living in Maine and counting on these services by supporting this necessary increase in Maine's shelter operating subsidy. Thank you.

Hanna Gregory
Housing Services Coordinator
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 5188
Augusta, ME 04347
Hanna@mcedv.org
207-430-3573