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Martin Grohman - Biddeford  
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Mark Dion - Portland  
Penelope York - Rockland  
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Richard Matthews - South Portland  
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## **Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on LD 698, An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony in support of LD 698, An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Maine's housing crisis continues to directly impact each of our cities and is an issue of highest priority for our Coalition. Every day we see the human and economic consequences that come from the lack of housing supply and the rising costs of homes and rents.

As you're aware, our housing crisis has brought with it an increase in homelessness, a serious and dangerous issue that we fear will only get worse. Though unhoused populations may be larger in our cities, homelessness is not unique to us. Sadly, communities all across the state are experiencing it as well.

As mayors, our most immediate concerns and constant struggles are finding housing for people who need it now and providing them with essential support. Ongoing financial resources, as proposed in LD 698, will help sustain emergency shelters and allow them to continue providing warm accommodations, and perhaps a sense of hope, to unhoused individuals, families and their children at a time when they are most in need. We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 698.

We appreciate your continuing work to address Maine's housing crisis, and we remain ready to lend our support to your efforts.

Thank you for your time.