



# HOMEWORTHY

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3-17-25

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony on this issue of funding provided through the Emergency Shelter Homeless Assistance Program (known as ESHAP) and distributed by MaineHousing.

My name is Isabella Trautmann and I am a case manager with Homeworthy, and work to support individuals experiencing homelessness in Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties. I am writing this testimony to testify on behalf of my clients and other individuals experiencing homelessness on the midcoast.

During my time working on the midcoast, I have encountered many individuals who could have benefited greatly from shelter services but were unable to receive such services because of the limited capacity of the service providers in the area. The first story that I would like to share with you is about an elderly gentleman. After being housed stably for many years, his landlord raised his rent to more than what the client could afford on his fixed Social Security income. My client began renting a room in a local boarding house where he is paying over half of his monthly income for a single room with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. My client is in his 70s and has medical concerns that prevent him from working. Until he is accepted into an affordable apartment, this boarding house is the last semi-affordable option for my client to be able to stay in the area. None of the shelter service providers in our region allow for single adult males and if my client chose to pursue a shelter option out of the midcoast area, he would have to leave behind his medical team, counselor, and social support system.

Another client whose story I would like to share is that of a middle-aged person. This person has been experiencing chronic homelessness for almost ten years. They have struggled for many years with their mental health and due to their need for shelter and mental health support, they had been bounced around to multiple shelter locations throughout the state. I met this client after they were discharged from a crisis stabilization unit. They had been homeless prior to entering the crisis stabilization unit and the only assistance given to them upon discharge was one week paid for by a church in a local hotel room. They are a recent amputee, it was rapidly getting colder every night, and unfortunately, there was no shelter in the area that had the capacity for them. If they chose to pursue shelter options statewide, they would once again have to transition to another community, get connected to a new doctor, and build a new network of support.

While I have only shared two stories with you, there are hundreds more that go unheard. I hope you will consider the experiences of the individuals that I have shared with you and how increasing shelter funding could immensely improve the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness. Hopefully with the passing of this measure,

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1696  
Rockland, ME 04841

### Family Shelter and Support Services:

169 Old County Road  
Rockport, ME 04856

### The Landing Place

#### Youth Center:

61 Park Street  
Rockland, ME 04841

[phone] 207.593.8151

[fax] 207.593.8170

info@homeworthy.org  
homeworthy.org

**Our Mission:** Breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness in Midcoast Maine since 2014.

Homeworthy is a 501(c)3 not for profit, EIN # 46-3136785 fna Knox County Homeless Coalition

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Homeworthy and other homeless service providers throughout the state will have a greater capacity to serve the individuals experiencing homelessness in their area.

Thank you,

Isabella Trautmann, LMSW  
Comprehensive Case Manager  
Homeworthy  
[itrautmann@homeworthy.org](mailto:itrautmann@homeworthy.org)  
207-691-7091

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