

April 24, 2025

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 1287, a bill that will promote housing and workforce stability.

Maine is facing a severe labor shortage, in large part due to the lack of affordable housing. This initiative will help prevent more homelessness and provide stability for Maine families and employers.

A skilled labor force is critical for a strong economy. Maine needs to attract more working-age individuals from other states and countries, retain young people born here, and support more Mainers in participating in the workforce.

As a resident of Portland and Director of Programs at ProsperityME, a non-profit providing economic empowerment programs for immigrants and low-income individuals, I see every day the skills, expertise and talents contributed by new Mainer friends and colleagues. Clients we have assisted have found good jobs and contribute to our workforce, our communities and they pay taxes. Our scholarship program assists people who are studying in vitally important fields such as healthcare, IT and engineering. Some of them received assistance with security deposits to secure a safe place to live while studying and working. And they will be future nurses and professionals helping to grow Maine's economy.

By passing LD 1287 and establishing the Housing Stability Support Program and Housing Stability Fund, we can ensure that families remain stably housed and continue contributing to their communities, fostering a stronger economy for Maine.

Mainers have a long history of supporting one another in times of need. LD 1287 strengthens communities by reducing and preventing homelessness for ALL, ensuring everyone has a stable foundation.

We must endeavor to change our perception of short-term support as a burden and view it as an investment in the future of Maine. LD1287 is an investment in our state and eases the burden on our local communities.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1287 and support the well-being of Maine residents. Please help provide stable housing and workforce development for all Mainers.

Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,  
Heather Cameron  
Portland Maine