

Lacey Donle
LISBON FALLS
LD 1522

Good Morning,

I am testifying in favor of LD 1522. I have worked with individuals facing eviction and homelessness for 15 years. Clients I assisted ranged in age from newborns with their parents to older adults in their 70's, 80's and 90's. Almost all were long time residents of Maine. It is always cheaper to keep a person or family housed, than to try and restart everything after an eviction has occurred. When people remain housed, they can remain employed, children can remain in school, and people are able to keep their furniture and belongings. In my experience, I found it takes at least a year of intensive support for people to become stable in new housing after a period of homelessness. In contrast, preventing an eviction and preserving housing can eliminate that time altogether, saving money, time, and significant trauma and stress on the system as a whole and the individuals themselves.

Please support LD 1522, an Act to Establish the Eviction Prevention Program.