

Helen Lukacs

LD 1287

Hello Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee. My name is Helen Lukacs, and I live in Alfred, ME. I am writing today to testify in support of LD1287, An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund.

I work at a non-profit, transitional house serving women in southern Maine. Many of the residents have been previously incarcerated and are living in recovery from complex trauma and/or substance abuse. Our house is intended for women who need a temporarily place to stay and assistance getting back on their feet. However, residents are staying longer and longer because they cannot find affordable, long-term options when ready to move out. Recently, a resident with a full-time job moved out and all she could find was a motel room. She was told she would have to move rooms when the tourists come and that her rent might go up- but a month-to-month lease offers few guarantees against price-gouging or no-fault eviction.

Maine is facing a labor shortage which will only get worse if people cannot find housing near their work and keep it. As homelessness grows in Maine, we desperately need more housing. In the meantime, we must work to keep folks in the homes they have. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1287 and support stable housing for all Mainers.