



**Testimony of Christopher Bowe, MD
on behalf of MaineHealth
February 10, 2026**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Dr. Christopher Bowe, and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of MaineHealth and urge the Legislature to support the state's shelter system.

MaineHealth is an integrated non-profit health care system that provides a continuum of health care services to communities throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Every day, our over 24,000 care team members support our vision of "Working Together so Our Communities are the Healthiest in America" by providing a range of services from primary and specialty physician services to a continuum of behavioral health care services, community and tertiary hospital care, home health care, a lab, and retail and specialty pharmacy services.

Daily, we see how health outcomes are affected by factors beyond the clinical setting. Housing instability and homelessness increasingly compromise patients' ability to recover and manage their health, whether through access to rest, symptom monitoring, or safe storage of medications.

A stable and well-funded shelter system is essential to the health of our communities. Health systems rely on trusted partners, including Tedford Housing, to provide shelter and housing navigation that support patient stability and well-being.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support initiatives that ensure a strong shelter system, allowing Maine's health systems to remain focused on preventing illness and improving health outcomes statewide. Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Bowe, MD