

Reverend Nancy Findlan
BELGRADE
LD 2124

I urge you to support LD 2124. This could provide an ongoing funding stream for shelters. Our ministry partners closely with the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter in Waterville Maine which is one of few low barrier shelters in the state of Maine. Their funding is not adequate to sustain them and without an influx of funding they may be forced to close their doors leaving those that are homeless no local resource. They have not received adequate funding that meets their actual costs for years so they continue to operate in a deficit.

Points to consider.

#1 LD 698 provided a short term Funding source in 2025 but was only a bridge that helped short term.

#2 Without long term consistent funding many shelters will be forced to close their doors.

#3 The states core operating subsidy remains since 2016 \$7.16 per day. Maine State Housing said the average estimated cost is \$102 per day forcing shelters to find other funding to remain open.

In closing please understand that shelters provide a humane home for those who are in need of safe housing as well as food and other vital services. LD 2124 is a practical solution to provide shelters with a reliable revenue stream to keep our states most vulnerable persons housed. Please follow your conscience and vote for what is ethically and morally our obligation as Mainers.

Thank you,