

State of Maine - 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Testimony of Carol O'Donnell and Melissa Fochesato
on behalf of Southern Midcoast Housing Collaborative
February 6, 2026

Supporting:

LD2124, "An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from
the Real Estate Transfer Tax"

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

Our names are Carol O'Donnell and Melissa Fochesato, Co-Chairs of the Southern Midcoast Housing Collaborative. We are testifying in support of LD 2124, *An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax*, on behalf of ourselves, our multi-sector collaborative, and our community.

Southern Midcoast Housing Collaborative's vision is a community where everyone has access to safe, affordable housing. Our partners include youth centers, day shelters, housing authorities, our local hospital, municipal governments, food security organizations, local legislators, and concerned community members working together to improve housing stability in our community. Together, we have advocated for and supported inclusive zoning ordinances, an affordable housing support fund, community purchase of a local mobile home park, a mobile home lot fee moratorium, and several community discussions on local needs and potential solutions.

Tedford Housing is an essential partner in this work, providing both shelter and housing navigation for our most vulnerable. Without a stable and well-funded shelter system statewide, our increasingly fragile housing system falls apart.

We respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2124.

Carol O'Donnell

Melissa Fochesato, MPH