



In support of LD 2124, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing & Economic Development
February 9, 2026

To the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Jenny Stasio and I am the Co-Executive Director at Through These Doors. Today, I am writing on behalf of Through These Doors, in support of LD 2124 and the need for financial support for emergency shelters in Maine.

Through These Doors is Maine's domestic violence resource center in Cumberland County, the only holistic resource center for victims of domestic abuse in the county. Incorporated in 1977, shelter for survivors of abuse and their children was our first service. Since then, we have grown and expanded to meet the complex and varied needs of survivors of abuse but the need for safe, emergency shelter has remained and steadily increased over the years.

Through These Doors is always at capacity. In FY 2025, we sheltered 69 individuals, including 20 children. This is equal to 4,491 bednights. This number represents a lower number than usual because of staffing shortages and a renovation project to expand our shelter capacity. We typically serve closer to 100-115 individuals annually. Survivors of abuse call our helpline everyday inquiring about shelter space which infrequently is available and when it is, filled within minutes. It is a scary, frustrating, and hopeless process for many survivors of abuse. Funding to keep our shelter functioning optimally as the costs of maintaining our shelter facility and accompanying services increases is imperative to our continued success as a haven for individuals and families fleeing abuse and violence in their homes. Through These Doors is committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Maine for survivors of abuse but this work requires a sufficiently funded emergency shelter system to do so.

One survivor we worked with shared the following: *I would not be where I am if it was not for TTD. You never turned your back on me. I was a mess and others had turned their backs on me. At your shelter, I was treated with dignity, and I was believed. My son and I are doing really well now.*

Thank you for your attention to our testimony and thoughtful consideration of LD 2124. On behalf of Through These Doors and the survivors of abuse we serve, please support this bill to ensure that survivors of abuse and others experiencing homelessness have the essential services when and where they need them.

Jenny Stasio, TTD Co-Executive Director