



## **Testimony in Support of LD 2124: An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable committee members; I'm Scott Turcotte from Community Action Alliance, a nonprofit representing Maine's immigrant and BIPOC communities. On behalf of our members we ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD2124.

This legislation is an essential part of our state's mission to support community members experiencing homelessness. If our democracy is how we come together to care for one another, then caring for those neighbors with the most significant needs must be our first priority. This bill would ensure that those who need access to emergency shelter, case management, and other supports would be supported this year and into the future.

We saw the importance of funding this program with the success of LD698 in 2025. That law was a vital lifeline for shelters that had faced imminent closures or reductions in services due to lack of funding, but it was a temporary solution, not a permanent one. LD2124 would make that funding permanent, and would ensure that our existing shelters avoid the fate of the York County Adult Shelter, which closed last year due to lack of funding, and would allow shelter staff to operate with the confidence that their services and employment will not suddenly disappear in the same way.

Critics of this legislation will object to this funding going to shelters, primarily located in denser parts of the state, instead of serving our rural communities. This is a misunderstanding of the way our shelter system works. These shelters meet regional needs, and serve clients not only from urban and rural communities alike, ultimately reducing the burden on rural communities for providing assistance to those in need. Similarly we know that shelters reduce the public cost of caring for community members experiencing homelessness by reducing ER visits, dramatically reducing incarceration rates, and promoting the public health. This bill is an important solution not only for the communities in which these shelters exist, but for Maine as a whole.

We ask that you join us, our members, and Mainers across the state in standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD2124.

Scott Turcotte  
Community Action Alliance  
LD 2124

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