



Maine Municipal  
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Provisional Support of  
*LD 475, Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System of Engagement Collaborative*

March 24, 2021

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Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour and I am providing testimony in provisional support of LD 475 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials believe the collaborative proposed in LD 475 is warranted and long overdue.

The process of ensuring that 200 homeless individuals in Maine are provided the services and resources necessary to obtain stable and permanent housing will support the efforts in some of the state's largest service center communities whose officials are grappling with historic increases in the number of homeless individuals. Despite the local level efforts, homeless individuals, whose ranks are growing among the youth and senior resident populations, are living in unacceptable conditions. A more collaborative and holistic approach, which calls on all the interested parties to work together, is necessary.

Our only concern with LD 475 as printed, is that the collaborative does not include municipal representation.

Through daily interactions, public health and welfare department staff, municipal law enforcement officers, and town and city managers, have firsthand knowledge of the issues facing their communities' homeless population. Municipal officials believe this experience could support the collaborative's goal of developing and implementing the proposed program.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to support an amended version of LD 475 that includes municipal representation in this important effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration.