



CITY OF PORTLAND

To: Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Kate Snyder, Mayor
Date: March 31, 2021
RE: Testimony in support of LD 910 (*An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Eligibility and Reimbursement*)

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Kate Snyder, Mayor of the City of Portland, and I am here on behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee in support of LD 910, An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Eligibility and Reimbursement.

Portland operates the State of Maine's largest adult homeless shelter, providing shelter for approximately 1,700 people, or nearly 75,000 bed nights, every year. Of the people we serve, over 30 percent resided in towns outside of Portland immediately prior to entering the shelter, demonstrating that the City shoulders a disproportionate burden in the delivery of social services to Maine residents. As the costs associated with that service delivery have increased, State funding has decreased. LD 910 would help to correct this imbalance. This bill also aims to return the funding formula for General Assistance back to levels prior to 2015, which is a far more equitable solution for larger service center communities.

I urge you to support LD 910 to provide a more equitable funding formula for communities like Portland and other large municipalities that have become statewide service providers. Thank you for your time and consideration.