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Maine Community Action Partnership Supports LD 1305 An Act To Streamline Requests for Housing Assistance

April 13, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, ladies and gentlemen of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Megan Hannan, Executive Director of Maine Community Action Partnership, and we support LD 1305 An Act To Streamline Requests for Housing Assistance.

For more than 50 years, Community Action has served as a dynamic and community-based force in addressing the causes and conditions of poverty throughout Maine and the country. Our ten Community Action Agencies (CAAs) deliver programs and services for people with low- and moderate income, including the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP; workforce development; the current rental relief program; Head Start and more.

We support every and any effort to streamline program application processes. A person who is low-income should not have to spend hours looking for, then applying to benefits and programs they are eligible to receive. In a more perfect world, a person would go to one website or one office and be offered every benefit to which s/he is entitled.

Poverty is not a character flaw. It is not due to a lack of working, raising a family or pulling one's self up by their proverbial bootstraps. Poverty is a result of government policies, systems and circumstances. When someone needs services they should have easy access to them, not have to go to several places, prove who they are each time and fill out long, invasive applications. Within Community Action agencies, we try to live by that rule. I would hope government could do the same.

I am happy to answer any questions that I can, now or in the work session.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Megan Hannan](#)
Executive Director