

## **Testimony in Support of LD 1710**

### **“An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program”**

Good morning Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing. My name is Scott Harriman and I am testifying in support of LD 1710, “An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program,” also known as the HOME Act.

As both a landlord and a city councilor here in Lewiston, I have seen the issues facing renters from many angles. I’ve met people who have finally received a Section 8 voucher only to struggle to find a landlord who will accept it. I’ve met others whose landlords keep raising the rent as high as the market will bear, despite these tenants’ incomes not rising at anywhere near the same rate.

Ensuring that people have more stability in their housing situations is beneficial for renters, landlords and society in general. I’ve lived in my home for less than six years, and out of the 40-50 families on my block there are only a handful who have lived here longer than that. It’s difficult to build a sense of community when one’s neighbors keep getting uprooted due to unaffordable rent. Repeated moves are also disruptive to children’s education and development, which can lead to less successful outcomes later in life, potentially continuing the cycle of instability with their own children.

Please vote Ought To Pass on LD 1710. Any assistance we can give to help people attain housing and stay in their homes is a worthwhile investment in Maine’s future. Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

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