

May 9, 2023

RE:[LD 1721](#), *An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State*

Dear Distinguished Members of the Committee on Housing,

I am writing to urge you to support LD 1721..An Act to Create Transitional Chousing for Homeless Populations in the State. As a volunteer, I have been working with homeless families in the Greater Portland area who are in shelters. Temporary, short-term housing in shelters is one thing, but due to the lack of housing in the area, the temporary has not been temporary. Imagine an atmosphere where there is no privacy, where you are sleeping in a room with dozens of strangers..some with coughs and colds..some with small children and babies crying out in the night. Then imagine being in such an atmosphere for months. Living like this is not conducive for good health, let alone being able to get a good night's sleep to be able to navigate a new life. Shelters are full, few apartments or even rooms are to be had. What a novel idea to create a fund at the state level to incentivize the planning and building of transitional housing, both for families and for singles, around the state service hubs. Transitional housing will allow the current homeless in shelters to move into a space of their own to get their feet under them, to obtain the services they need, and to use the two years of transitional housing to prepare themselves for independent living. Please support LD 1721.

Sincerely,

Gail Witherill
Cumberland