

Testimony in Support of LD 2136

Senator Peirce, Representative Gere, and Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, I am Patty Locuratolo Hymanson of York, past Maine State Representative 2015-2022, past Chair of HHS and member of AFA, and current Board Member of York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC).

I am writing in support of LD 2136, An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals. We all have seen and heard about the increase in homelessness in Maine. I have certainly seen and heard about it in York County especially in my role as Board member of YCCAC. Our York County Shelter Programs currently can not fully support the homeless who are clients and patients of YCCAC. Homelessness severely impacts our abilities to supply services to these struggling Mainers. Staff capacity needs to ramp up and this infusion of funding would help in the short term.

I am hopeful you will support the need for this funding bill with a unanimous vote of ought to pass. This way, as you know, AFA will see it as a priority.

Thank you for your attention and work for Mainers. I am grateful for so many things and I know some Mainers struggle beyond what I know. This funding bill is for their dignity and for hope for a better day.