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This bill will provide much needed relief to Maine's live music venue industry. Music venues were the first to close and will be the last businesses to reopen, and it is still unclear exactly how we will benefit from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, especially nonprofit organizations. Due to how the SVOG bill defines revenue, nonprofits may not qualify for full relief under the bill. This bill here in Maine will go a long way to keep independent music venues in business - we simply need financial relief to be able to keep paying rent and utilities until we can safely and legally reopen.

Music venues play a key role in Maine's creative economy. In Portland, for example, they draw people in to surrounding restaurants and bars before and after events, contributing to the ecosystem of neighborhood businesses that help make Portland such a popular destination. They provide jobs to countless Mainers working to preserve and present Maine's robust art and music communities.

Please help give a lifeline to these businesses who have been so uniquely affected by the pandemic. Unlike restaurants and other places of business, music venues have been unable to generate any income whatsoever since March 2020. With a light at the end of the tunnel seemingly coming into view, we need to help give these businesses an extra push to get them over the hump and to make sure they will still exist when it's safe to resume public events once again.