

March 20, 2023

I am writing in support of LD 787. As an active member of the broad faith community in and around Portland that supports and volunteers efforts to assist asylum seekers through organizations such as Greater Portland Family Promise, I have witnessed first-hand the deep need for housing assistance and eagerness for work among those seeking asylum. During each of my volunteer shifts since just the beginning of March, I have met professionally educated asylum seekers –for example, a trained French teacher and a college-educated economist, who are so ready and motivated to work now. LD 787 would enable a centralized resource of information and connections to facilitate job placement, professional guidance/training, and crucial housing matches. LD 787 helps with an immediate need that helps Maine’s economy and wellbeing of those seeking asylum while we all work together to find longer-term solutions to our broken asylum and immigration systems.

Kathy Strand
Portland, ME

Kathy Strand
Portland
LD 787

March 20, 2023

I am writing in support of LD 787. As an active member of the broad faith community in and around Portland that supports and volunteers efforts to assist asylum seekers through organizations such as Greater Portland Family Promise, I have witnessed first-hand the deep need for housing assistance and eagerness for work among those seeking asylum. During each of my volunteer shifts since just the beginning of March, I have met professionally educated asylum seekers –for example, a trained French teacher and a college-educated economist, who are so ready and motivated to work now. LD 787 would enable a centralized resource of information and connections to facilitate job placement, professional guidance/training, and crucial housing matches. LD 787 helps with an immediate need that helps Maine's economy and wellbeing of those seeking asylum while we all work together to find longer-term solutions to our broken asylum and immigration systems.