



Senator Curry, Representative Gere and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today in support of LD 847, An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination.

Last session, MPA stood with hundreds of advocates and everyday people to support the HOME Act. We are grateful the Joint Select Committee on Housing and the Appropriations Committee worked to create the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help Mainers facing the most acute aspects of our housing crisis and maintain their housing. We hope that the legislature will continue to do so, while also taking the next steps to ensure that no one is turned away from potential rental housing because they were fortunate enough to secure a housing voucher or other assistance. The biases against vouchers are well known as a major reason that vouchers are frequently returned unused across the state.

MPA members spoke at the public hearing for the HOME Act about the challenges they faced in putting their vouchers to use and the impact that had on their families. When people are exiting family violence, the loss of their home, or other extreme circumstances, the system there to stabilize their circumstances should function smoothly. Without protections against voucher discrimination, it cannot.

I urge you to support LD 847 and vote yes.

Thank you for your consideration.