

To: Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature

Re: LD 847

From: Delene Perley

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Suppose you cannot afford rents in the area where you work and live? That happens often in Portland.

Suppose you discover that you have an income that allows you to apply for help such as Section 8 Housing.

You complete the application and wait a long time to get approval. When that arrives, you go out to find a place to live and the landlord refuses your application because you have housing assistance. How fair is that? NOT! People should not be discriminated against because they have lower income than others. If a person can pay, that should be it.

My husband, when he was alive, helped make sure that such discrimination did not take place by posing as the white, older applicant without special funding. Pine Tree was looking to see that such discrimination did not exist. That was 15 years ago. We need this legislation today!

All our workers need to have housing and Section 8 is one way they get it. I have helped immigrants with English and Citizenship study, who have benefited from my assistance. I have seen up close the benefits of their using this housing help as they and their children make their way here in our country and communities. We need these workers, and they need your help in passing LD 847.

I'm a member of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network, a group of Unitarian Universalists around the state, supporting those who need a little extra help. Thank you for your work.

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