

Testimony in Support of LD 2176, An Act to Safeguard Personal Information and Strengthen Tenant Rights in Maine

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Victoria Morales, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Project Home in strong support of LD 2176, An Act to Safeguard Personal Information and Strengthen Tenant Rights in Maine.

Project HOME is a statewide housing navigation and stabilization program that functions as a bridge between landlords and tenants. We work directly with both parties to create successful, stable housing placements for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Since 2018, we have provided stable, affordable housing to more than 2,624 households and over 5,500 adults and children from every Maine county. Our 99% success rate depends entirely on an informed and trusting landlord-tenant relationship.

LD 2176 is a common sense privacy bill that protects both tenants and landlords. It clearly defines a tenant's personal information to include national origin, citizenship, immigration status, and Alien number – ensuring that this data cannot be misused to harass, intimidate, or pressure tenants to leave their home.

The bill also protects landlords by setting clear privacy expectations: they may only share a tenant's immigration information when presented with a judicial warrant. This clarity strengthens trust in the landlord-tenant relationship.

Maine has the authority to govern its own landlord-tenant laws, and LD 2176 reinforces that state-level independence. Strong privacy protections do not hinder lawful property management; they prevent coercion and help keep households stable.

I urge the Committee to support LD 2176 and vote ought to Pass.

Sincerely,

Victoria Morales



creating pathways to stable housing, better health, and financial security

Victoria Morales
Maine
LD 2176

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