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Within the overlapping crises of COVID-19, affordable housing shortage, and lack of mental health and substance use disorder services, I write to support LD 211 to support the necessary emergency shelter access to support the most vulnerable members of our community. Unsheltered people, especially women, report experiencing higher rates of violence and trauma than their sheltered counterparts, while communities of color disproportionately experience poverty, homelessness, and the effects of these crises, as we have witnessed in Maine through COVID-19. Although only 1% of Maine's general population is Black, 26% of Maine's homeless population is Black. Unsheltered homelessness is a racial justice issue, and a human rights issue. Emergency shelters meet basic needs that are critical for keeping people alive, especially in a state where going unsheltered can be life-threatening (in dangerous winter temperatures). "Dirigo," our state flag reads: "I lead." I hope Maine can lead in a way that is just, and values and protects human life, especially the lives of its most vulnerable communities.