

Linda Holtslander  
Peaks Island

Subject: Pass LD 211: An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Distinguished Members of The Committee on Labor and Housing

My name is Linda Holtslander and I am a resident of Peaks Island. I am urgently asking you to vote in support of LD 211. An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness. This critical legislation would allocate \$3 million in additional funding to homeless shelters in Maine, helping them provide their lifesaving services to our most vulnerable.

I have been a volunteer at Preble Street in Portland for four years. I was named Volunteer of the Year and was selected by DownEast magazine in November 2020 as one of 15 people making our state better. I give you this information to assist you in knowing that my support of LD 211 is based on first hand knowledge of the need in our state for emergency shelters. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis in Maine that has resulted in more people, many who believed they would never find themselves homeless, now unsheltered without a safe place to stay. Without access to emergency shelter, the amount of time they are homeless escalates. This leads of course to unacceptable outcomes for the individuals and the public health system. There is no doubt in my mind that you believe as I do that everyone deserves a safe place in times of crisis. I am asking you to vote in support of this bill so that everyone can access dignified shelter. Sincerely, Linda Holtslander