

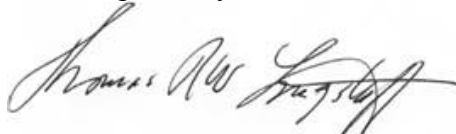
130th Maine Legislature
An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

February 16, 2021

Good morning Senator Rafferty and Representative Sylvester and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Thomas Longstaff. I'm a resident of Waterville, a former member of this Legislature, a member of the Board of Directors of the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and a member of the Community Services Committee of the Waterville Rotary Club. I'm here today to speak very briefly in favor of LD211, "An Act To Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness." As you know, if passed, this legislation will continue funding to support operations and capacity at low-barrier emergency homeless shelters throughout the State. Because of my volunteer activities with the Homeless Shelter and Rotary, I am acutely aware there are too many people in Maine who are homeless, too many children who suffer with food insecurity and host of problems that come with these conditions. Needless to say, the pandemic has made these problems even more challenging. For example, at the Homeless Shelter, to maintain distances, we can no longer accommodate as many residents as we did a year ago. We need to resort to hotels for additional accommodation. I need not go on. I am confident that you are as aware of these problems as I am. I hope that you will agree that the need is critical and that you will report this bill out of committee with a unanimous ought-to-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for all that you do for the people of Maine. I will try to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas R. W. Longstaff", written in a cursive style.

Thomas R. W. Longstaff
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