



Megan Hannan, Executive Director
Maine Community Action Partnership
c/o Penquis
262 Harlow Rd.
Bangor ME 04402
207-831-9893

Jason Parent, CEO/Executive Director
Aroostook County Action Program, Inc.
PO Box 1116
Presque Isle, ME 04769-1116
207-764-3721

Shawn Yardley, CEO
Community Concepts, Inc.
240 Bates Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-739-6553

Mark Green, Executive Director
Downeast Community Partners
248 Bucksport Rd.
Ellsworth, ME 04605
207-610-5904

Suzanne Walsh, CEO
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
97 Water Street
Waterville, ME 04901
207-859-1579

Claire Berkowitz, President & CEO
Midcoast Maine Community Action
34 Wing Farm Parkway
Bath, ME 04530
207-442-7963

Joe Everett, President & CEO
Opportunity Alliance
50 Lydia Lane
South Portland, ME 04106
207-523-5055

Kara Hay, President & CEO
Penquis
PO Box 1162
Bangor, ME 04402
207-973-3500

Donna Kelley, President & CEO
Waldo Community Action Partners
PO Box 130
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-6809

Jim Trundy, Executive Director
Western Maine Community Action, Inc.
PO Box 200
East Wilton, ME 04234-0200
207-743-7763

Barbara Crider, Executive Director
York County Community Action Corporation
PO Box 72
Sanford, ME 04073
207-324-5762

Maine Community Action Partnership Supports LD 1269 An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine

May 5, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester, honorable members of the Committee on Labor and Housing, I am Megan Hannan, Executive Director of Maine Community Action Partnership, and we support LD 1269 An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine.

For more than 50 years, Community Action has served as a dynamic and community-based force in addressing the causes and conditions of poverty throughout Maine and the country. Our ten Community Action Agencies deliver programs and services for people with low- and moderate income across the state, including the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP; workforce development; the current rental relief program; Head Start and some also develop affordable housing. Our Mission is built on fairness, equity and anti-racism, which all fit into this simple and direct bill language. Many, if not most, of our constituency live in rental housing, and sadly, not all of these basic ideals are met.

The requirement to ensure that public funds are used to affirmatively further fair housing, which is defined as to engage actively in efforts to address barriers to and create opportunities for full and equal access to housing without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status or receipt of public assistance is what I would consider minimum requirements. During this time, more than in the last few decades, the issues of economic disparities is in the headlines; one can no longer say one didn't know.

LD 1269 creates a floor to non-discrimination that should already be met, but we know is not universally. Please support LD 1269.

I am happy to answer any questions that I can, now or in the work session.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Megan Hannan](#)
Executive Director