

Ed Fallon
Lisbon

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing: my name is Ed Fallon. I have lived in Maine for over 4 years, and now live in Lisbon with my granddaughter. I would like to testify in support of LD 1656.

As a veteran, I am concerned that returning veterans with PTSD or other mental health issues will not find their way to proper resources, such as housing, good paying jobs as well as necessary mental health treatment. After they have served our country, we should not abandon them. They must get access to the resources they need, and safe, decent and affordable housing is a key to putting them on a path to a successful transition back home.

This is a serious problem that affects everyone, not just veterans, and we need to act boldly now to address the issue. A friend of mine spent four years in a motel room in Lewiston with her partner because she could not find an apartment to live in. Before that she lived in her car. When I first moved to Maine I lived in a dingy, substandard apartment in Lewiston because it was all I could afford. This bill will create 20,000 units of energy-efficient housing that will help address the housing crisis in Maine, and it would come none too soon.

A granddaughter of mine who lives in Lewiston just had a baby, and the one I live with who cares for me is expecting. I hope we can adopt a new approach for providing safe, decent and affordable housing for all Mainers so my family can find the housing they need as their families expand. It is the right thing to do!

Please support LD 1656.

Thank you for listening to me.

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