**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 641 — “AN ACT TO SUPPORT DIVERSION EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN MAINE”**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

**Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and the esteemed members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development.** My name is **[Your Name]**, and I am **[a resident of X town/a community member/a professional in X field/etc.]**. I strongly support LD 641, *An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine*, because preventing homelessness before it starts is not only the right thing to do - it's also the most cost-effective approach.

Homelessness is not just a policy issue. It’s a deeply personal one. **[Share a personal connection: Have you, a loved one, a neighbor, or someone in your community faced housing instability? Why does this issue matter to you?]**

The Housing Problem Solving (HPS) program is a proven solution. In 2024, HPS helped 663 people stay housed with a budget of just $750,000 – that's only $1,131 per person. Compare that to the alternative: $36,000 per year for a shelter bed or over $7,000 for rapid rehousing. Every dollar invested in HPS saves taxpayers money while protecting individuals and families from homelessness.

With the additional funding proposed in LD 641, HPS could prevent homelessness for twice as many people—over 1,000 Mainers each year. That means fewer children are forced to change schools, fewer workers losing their jobs due to housing instability, and fewer families torn apart by avoidable crises.

I urge you to support LD 641 and invest in a program that saves money, strengthens communities, and most importantly, keeps Mainers in their homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
 **[Your Name]**
 **[Your Town, Maine]**