



March 10th, 2025

Testimony in support of LD847: An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, Maine and I am the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am here today on behalf of my organization to ask that you support LD847: An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination

Maine, like many states across the country, is facing a brutal housing crisis. Many renters, especially young people or those without economic privilege are met with a lack of housing options, much less options that are actually affordable. As an organization, affordable housing is a chief concern of ours. In a months-long issue survey where we heard from over 100 young people about what political issues mattered the most to them, affordable housing was ranked the most important issue, and many respondents went out of their way to mention this topic in the additional comments section.

In the midst of this crisis, tenants should not face discrimination based on receiving rental assistance. LD847 would help make housing more accessible for residents all across the state, and protect renters from unfair stigmas that landlords may hold against tenants. As we navigate the housing crisis in Maine, we need to pass bills such as LD847 that will help young people actually feel the benefit of housing assistance programs, give vulnerable renters a fighting chance, and ultimately help more Mainers find a place to call home.

Thank you for your consideration,
Eli Durand-McDonnell