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Cumberland County

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David Birkhahn

Vice President

TD Bank

Elizabeth Boepple

Partner

BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC

dee Clarke

Advocate

Homeless Voices for Justice

Jan McCormick

Vice President of Asset Mgmt.

Northern New England Housing Investment Fund

Luc Nya

Mental Health Program Coordinator

OCFS/Corrections Liaison

Maine DHHS

Thomas Ptacek

Veteran's Healthcare Outreach Community Organizer

Preble Street

John Ryan

President

Wright-Ryan Construction

Kimberly Twitchell

Maine Regional President

NBT Bank

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Development Director

Brenda Sylvester

Development Officer

Bree LaCasse

Development Officer

Brian Kilgallen

Development Officer

May 23, 2018

Honorable Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Sara.Gideon@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Speaker of the House Gideon:

I have been asked to contact you on behalf of the following groups and organizations, each of which voted unanimously to send you this letter:

* Statewide Homeless Council
* Board of Directors for the Maine Continuum of Care
* Maine Homeless Policy Committee
* Region I Homeless Council
* Region II Homeless Council
* Region III Homeless Council
* Maine Continuum of Care
* Portland Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC)
* ESAC Long Term Stayer Subcommittee
* Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services
* Disability Activists and Allies of Maine (DAAM)
* Community Connect Maine

All of the groups and organizations sending this letter represent the interests of:

1. People who are homeless, including people with serious and persistent mental illness and/or people affected by the disease of addiction or substance use disorder; and/or
2. People who have intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Both populations include people who are elderly, disabled, and very vulnerable. There are tens of thousands of people who can be described as such in Maine.

We are writing to respectfully urge you to convene a Special Session of the 128th Legislature in order to address the unfinished business on the Special Appropriations Table.

There are many bills on the Table that pertain to housing and services for very vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness and people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. These bills have broad, bipartisan support, and there is money available with which these bills could be funded. Reconvening the Legislature to attend to this unfinished business is something from which everyone will benefit.

We ask that you please consider the needs of Maine’s most vulnerable populations and convene a Special Session to finish the remaining work of the 128th Legislature.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of vulnerable populations in Maine.

Sincerely,

Cullen Ryan