



Maine Equal Justice

People Policy Solutions

Support LD 1180 - An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's Source of Income (Rep. Ben Collings)

Everyone should have a fair chance at a safe, affordable home.

When someone is granted a housing voucher, it should mean they are finally able to find a home for their family without barrier. But in Maine right now, **housing choices are severely limited for people with housing vouchers**, too often resulting in homelessness and loss of stability. Tenants face the unfair stigma that comes with participation in rental assistance programs. Mainers with housing vouchers **routinely apply to dozens of landlords** before finding one who will accept their voucher. Often, tenants lose their vouchers simply because they can't find a landlord to take their voucher in the time allotted by the program rules.

"Housing voucher programs are one of the most successful and effective tools we have to ensure that very low-income Mainers can find a safe and affordable place to live, but the program depends on renters' ability to actually use them in the marketplace. Housing discrimination makes their use much more difficult."

*Greg Payne,
Maine Affordable Housing
Coalition*



"I've watched friends who had vouchers die on the street while trying to find housing. I have gotten incredibly depressed because no landlord will rent to me. It has made me feel hopeless and worthless, like I must not be a good person if people don't want to rent to me. We need to end voucher discrimination in Maine so people like me don't have to stay in homelessness for years upon years."

-Leanna

LD 1180 will ensure greater fairness for Mainers who are trying to find a place to call home.

LD 1180 allows Maine to join over 50 cities, counties, and states in specifically prohibiting discrimination against housing voucher holders. LD 1180 limits the instances where a landlord could refuse to participate in Section 8 and other rental assistance programs. For example, a landlord could not refuse to participate in the program because they did not want the apartment to be inspected, because they refused to make necessary repairs, or because they refused to fill out the necessary paperwork to participate in the program.

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