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**Testimony In Support of
LD 1437, “An Act to Address Poverty by Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency and
Weatherization Programs”**

May 1, 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Housing,

My name is William Harwood, testifying as Public Advocate in support of LD 1437, “An
Act to Address Poverty by Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Programs.”

The Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council and OPA supports automatic enrollment of low-
income ratepayers in the PUC administered LIAP program. Currently less than 50% of eligible
ratepayers actually receive LIAP benefits. Unfortunately, many of the approximately 75,000 –
100,000 qualifying households with income below 200% of the federal poverty guideline are unable
or unwilling to go through the time consuming and cumbersome application process administered
by CAP agencies.

The OPA is actively working with DHHS and is hopeful that DHHS can administratively
make adjustments to its application process to allow DHHS to simply notify the appropriate utility
that one of its residential customers qualifies for automatic enrollment in the LIAP program.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the
Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 1437 and will be available for
the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate