

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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March 27, 2023

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 566 – An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is to provide information regarding LD 566, An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services. This bill would provide additional funding for sexual assault services totaling \$3.06 million over the biennium.

OCFS does not take a position on the question of increasing the funding for sexual assault services but would note that the bill does not include specificity regarding how the money would be spent, what impact it is intended to have for clients, and how the positive impact of the funding would be measured. OCFS' Violence Prevention Unit oversees Maine's contracts for both sexual assault services and domestic violence services, as such the increased funding proposed by LD 566 would flow through OCFS and OCFS would benefit from additional guidance regarding how this funding is to be used and what performance metrics should be utilized in the contract to measure the benefit of this increased funding.

We wanted you to be aware of the above information as you consider this bill going forward. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd A. Landry".

Dr. Todd A. Landry
Director
Office of Child and Family Services