



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
111 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA MAINE  
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY  
COMMISSIONER

To: Senator Deschambault, Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Representative Warren, Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

From: Randall Liberty, Commissioner Department of Corrections

Date: January 7, 2021

---

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, attached please find the report *Initial Findings on the Effectiveness of Maine's Certified Batterer Intervention Programs* for your review, as part of Public Law 2017, Chapter 431.

The report provides a detailed accounting of the Certified Batterer Intervention Program (CBIP)—its many accomplishments and its challenges; describes the partnerships between the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC), Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), Wabanaki Women's Coalition, and many other vital community practitioners and dedicated volunteers; while also providing a framework for public policy interventions.

MDOC expanded its on-going partnership with MCEDV in 2019, as a result of the 2017 law. Originally a contractual agreement, MCEDV's role was to assist with the implementation of plans for using the monies appropriated under this law. Over the two years however, a shared commitment to ending domestic violence through education has shifted what could have been a prescribed working relationship into a highly collaborative, solution-focused alliance. The foundational work outlined in this report, authored by MCEDV's talented Karen Wyman, is more than a summation of CBIP, it is an illustration of commitment and deference.

As you review the report, I hope you'll take notice of the results from the survivor impact survey. It's clear that victims of domestic violence, the group of people whose opinion matters most to me in determining efficacy of the CBIP, report greater degrees of safety after their offender has attended CBIP.

MDOC and MCEDV are committed to continuing CBIP, as there is much more to be done to support, prevent, motivate, coordinate, and evaluate. It is the shared hope of MDOC and MCEDV that you'll feel compelled, on behalf of past, present and future victims of domestic violence, to take up any number of the policy recommendations outlined within.

I look forward to speaking with you about this program. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Randall A. Liberty  
Commissioner