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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Anne Carney, Senate Chair
The Honorable Thomas Harnett, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 438
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: 13th Biennial Report of the Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel

Greetings, Senator Carney and Representative Harnett,


Pursuant to Title 19-A M.R.S. § 4013(4), I present the 13th Biennial Report of the Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel. The enclosed edition of the report includes retrospective analysis of the past twenty years.

The report highlights both the progress made and the challenges which remain in combatting domestic abuse in Maine and preventing tragedies from occurring. It highlights several positive changes made by the Legislature over the past twenty years and provides recommendations for how to better protect victims of domestic abuse going forward.

What is clear from the report is that no one agency or sector has all of the answers. A collaborative approach between health care providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, private attorneys, social workers, and corrections officials is needed. The initiatives highlighted in this report make clear that funding for critical prevention and intervention services continue. As I note in my introduction to the report, domestic and sexual violence has a significant societal and economic impact on all of us.

Thank you for your attention to this important report. I welcome the opportunity to address any questions you have.

Sincerely,


Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General

Enclosure