

**Testimony of Andrea Mancuso
In Support of LD 430
“An Act to Provide Translation Services for Hospital Patients”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am writing on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)¹ in Support of LD 430, “An Act to Provide Translation Services for Hospital Patients.”

Medical professionals are often the first people that hear from survivors about what is happening or has happened to them. It is critically important that our medical providers prioritize creating the conditions that allow for safe and supported disclosure. Providing the ability to communicate with a patient in their primary language is a critical part of that. For those who are experiencing abuse or violence from a partner or family member, it is particularly important that the person providing interpretation services is not a child or a family member, as that will almost always restrict the patient’s ability to be fully transparent about their experiences, concerns and needs.

MCEDV would suggest the Committee consider a minor language modification to appropriately name an adult providing interpretation services as an “adult interpreter” in lieu of “adult translator.”

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. It is sound public policy that supports Maine’s most vulnerable citizens, and we urge you to support it.

Contact Information:

Andrea Mancuso, Esq.
Public Policy Director
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)
Ph: (207) 650-4356
Email: andrea@mcedv.org

¹ MCEDV serves a membership of the eight regional domestic violence resource centers (DVRCs) across the state, as well as the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. Last year, these programs together served more than 12,000 Maine survivors of domestic abuse and violence and their children.