

AARON M. FREY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
6 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0006

TEL: (207) 626-8800  
TTY USERS CALL MAINE RELAY 711

REGIONAL OFFICES  
84 HARLOW ST. 2ND FLOOR  
BANGOR, MAINE 04401  
TEL: (207) 941-3070  
FAX: (207) 941-3075

125 PRESUMPCOT ST., SUITE 26  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
TEL: (207) 822-0260  
FAX: (207) 822-0259

14 ACCESS HIGHWAY, STE. 1  
CARIBOU, MAINE 04736  
TEL: (207) 496-3792  
FAX: (207) 496-3291

May 1, 2023

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair  
Representative Laura Supica, Chair  
Committee on Health Coverage,  
Insurance and Financial Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: *LD 1783, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's  
Advisory Council on Military Sexual Trauma*

Greetings, Senator Hickman and Representative Supica,

I am writing today in support of LD 1783, *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Council on Military Sexual Trauma*.


As a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Military Sexual Trauma, my Office has spent significant time working alongside advocates, survivors, law enforcement and members of the National Guard to create these recommendations. Through the course of the meetings on the Council, it was apparent that there are several ways in which the State can be more deliberate about collecting data, as lacking Maine-specific information routinely arose as a barrier to more tailored discussion and evaluation. We believe that the data collection sections of this bill would significantly improve the State's ability to assess the current state and measure progress on the instances of sexual assault and harassment in the National Guard.

We are also deeply supportive of the provision of paid leave to survivors contemplated in this bill. Maine Guard members hold selfless and critical roles in our state. When victims need to be able to process trauma, attend to their physical and mental health, and provide space from an unsafe environment, they should not be required to do so without pay.

As the administrators of the Victims Compensation Program, our Office had a few concerns about the references to the program contained in the bill, largely focused on the mechanics and realities of the program's interplay with federal law. We understand that an amendment will be proposed at the work session to amend these sections, and the Office supports

these changes to ensure that anyone making application to the Victims Compensation Program will do so consistent with federal law.

Sincerely,

  
Aaron M. Frey  
Attorney General