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MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
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“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Public Hearing Date: May 17, 2023
Testimony in Support of LD 258

Chair Rotundo, Chair Sachs, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is Maeghan Maloney, I am the District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties and the President of the Maine Prosecutors Association. I am here today in Support of LD 258, Part A, Section 1, Line 0409 which establishes 3 limited-period Assistant District Attorney positions for the STOP Violence against Women grant through June 14, 2025.

Thankfully, this is a simple one. This initiative requires no money from the State of Maine. These three positions are exclusively funded by money from the federal government. Specifically, the federal STOP Violence against Women grant provides the money for these three positions. Therefore, this request is to allow the three limited-period positions to continue through June 14, 2025. If it is possible to have them continue longer, that would keep us from having to return to renew this request in two years.

In case some background on these positions is helpful, I will provide that here. Every year I personally apply for a federal STOP grant. In the past, this grant covered 4 prosecutors who handled sexual assault and domestic violence cases in the counties of York, Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, Kennebec, Somerset, Penobscot, and Piscataquis. Unfortunately, the amount money available was reduced this year and now Penobscot and Piscataquis no longer receives this funding. This leaves three federal STOP grant prosecutors. The money will be further reduced this year and the Attorney General's Office predicts the money will only cover two STOP grant prosecutors by the end of the year. Regardless, at this moment, there are three Stop prosecutors which is the reason for the need for three limited period positions.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/Maeghan Maloney

Maeghan Maloney