

January 18, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Debra Jacques. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes.

As Director of Marketing and Development, I assist with the fundraising efforts that support the sexual assault and children's advocacy programming in Aroostook and Washington counties. Each year we compete with similar programs across the State for the same limited funding to support children and adults and their families who have been impacted by sexual abuse. It is particularly distressing that in two of the most rural counties in the State, each year we serve more than 100 children following allegations of sexual abuse.

By passing LD 2084 you help ensure that we protect our children, as well as adults, who have been sexually abused. Thank you.