

Tessa Mayberry
Westbrook
LD 2085

Dear honorable members of the judiciary committee,

My name is Tessa Mayberry and I support LD2085, an act to update Maine's domestic violence and stalking laws. Throughout the last year, I have been witness to a friend, Shannon Saxby, who has endured continuous harassment at the hands of an ex-boyfriend. Witnessing her be harassed and stalked by him has been hard to watch. I am in awe of her perseverance, and ability to keep calm under truly horrifying ordeals. At the hands of this man, whom she has a protection from harassment order against, she has endured multiple instances of him calling incessantly from blocked numbers, using an app to change his phone number to display her number on caller ID then calling people under the guise of her name, creating fake social media profiles to harass her, her daughter and her friends, accessing her bank information, stealing her mail, as well as defaming her on the social media of her workplace. So, in addition to harassment of Shannon, he has also tried to find ways to contact her children and place of work. Her children do not feel safe in their home because they fear that he will come to their house and hurt them. He has tried breaking and entering her house on multiple occasions as well as is known to steal mail from her mailbox.

The reason that I am submitting this written testimony is because Shannon, while as strong as she is, has been forced to take her own protective measures, against a man who should be held accountable for his heinous actions. In addition to being cruel, this man is also smart. A tech-savvy individual, he knows how to use technology to take advantage of Shannon, her daughters, and the law. Because of loopholes in the current system, he has been able to get away with his harassment and stalking because the police in Windham do not have the resources to find proof of his criminal acts. Women, or anyone individual who is dealing with harassment and stalking via forms of technology should not have to endure this, especially since many local police departments are ill-equipped to help protect her, her daughters and her assets. It is my firm belief that the passing of LD2085 will benefit so many people, and protect them from abuse. Technology is a driving factor for our economy, and way of life, but it is also a shield that abusers can hide behind while they continue to torment their victims. I am certain that Shannon is not the only individual navigating the waters of trying to live a normal life, while an abuser is always trying to access her, and cause her emotional harm. Please consider my testimony, and understand that it is negligent to not pass LD 2085.