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Testimony of Rep. Morgan Rielly in support of
LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of my hometown of Westbrook. I am pleased to cosponsor **LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes.**

Throughout the 130th Legislature, as well as the First Session of the 131st Legislature, I have worked with advocates and survivors to pass stronger legislation to address sexual assault and trauma among the Maine National Guard.

Failure to fund VOCA will put survivors at further risk with a potential 62% cut to currently funded core victim services in Maine. This means that services like Domestic Violence services, court appointed special advocates for children, the Attorney General's Homicide VWAs, and many more will be left underfunded. This is absolutely unacceptable.

While we are working to address sexual assault and trauma around the state, we must recognize that it is still pervasive. According to the [2022 Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities](#), approximately one out of 20 respondents (5.3% of those surveys) indicated they had been the victim of a violent crime including robbery, assault, sexual assault, rape or attempted rape in the previous 12 months. We must continue to work to disrupt the systems that allow these violent crimes to happen, while providing the necessary support survivors seek when a crime does occur.

Please help to ensure that ongoing support is provided.

Thank you for your time and consideration of LD 2084.