

Hannah Johnson
Portland
LD 2085

Dear honorable members of the judiciary committee, my name is Hannah Johnson and I support LD 2085 and act to update maines domestic violence and stalking laws. Over the course of 2023 I witnessed a dear friend, Shannon Saxby, continually harassed and stalked by an ex-partner. I am writing because there was little done to protect Shannon and her daughters from this victimization despite her obtaining a protection from harassment order. Her abuser is tech-savvy, he knows how to manipulate technology to hide his identity, he works in IT and has had professional training. Due to this fact and the fact that current statute does not include updated verbiage to include the measures people can take with technology in 2024, many of his PFA violations were dismissed due to lack of evidence. Her and her daughters have lived in a state of constant unease not knowing when the next contact would be made. Some of the technological harassment incidents included: calling incessantly from blocked numbers, using an app to change his number to display her number on caller ID and calling people, creating fake profiles to contact her, her daughter and her friends, accessing bank information, defaming her on the social media of her workplace. This has gone on for 11 months and each time violations are reported the police have little recourse for the technological harassment because they say it is hard to prove. The statute needs to change. Women cannot be living in a world where behavior like this goes unaddressed because of outdated wording in a law. I believe that the passing of 2085 will benefit people because it will help close loopholes that stalkers can currently slip through. It will help the issue of technology violations being hard to prove. I ask for your support in passing this extremely impactful law.

Thank you for taking time to review my testimony.
Sincerely,
Hannah Johnson