

Caitlin Corrigan
LMSW-CC, Island Institute for Trauma Recovery
LD 2084

I am writing to provide testimony to support LD 2084 because I believe strongly that Maine must provide state funding to close the significant gap left by federal funding cuts to services for survivors of violence and crime.

I have worked with survivors of violence throughout my entire career here in southern Maine. Whether working as a case manager to individuals who experienced human trafficking within violent intimate partnerships, to supporting homeless youth reeling from the impact of sexual assault, to my work now as a clinical social worker specializing in trauma—I have seen firsthand the importance and impact of survivor specific services on individual and community safety and healing.

A reduction of support for this work would be absolutely devastating to our community. Already, too many survivors face uphill battles. Too often, exiting harm means having to engage with challenging and complex systems, from law enforcement to navigating safe housing and resources to provide for themselves and their families. Over and over, I have heard from individuals about the impact that advocates, hotlines, legal support, and safe, confidential shelter have made on their lives. Maine's IPV services are essential, and help survivors do the incredibly challenging work of recovering and pursuing justice on their own terms. Without these crucial programs, services, and personnel, survivors face an even more isolated path towards safety.

I ask the judiciary to please support this bill, fund these services, and remind survivors of violence here in Maine that their safety is important, that healing is possible, that their bravery and strength will be supported by their community. Thank you for your consideration.