

STATE OF MAINE  
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PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT V

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January 23, 2024

Senator Anne Carney  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Support of LD 2084

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Joint Standing Committee,

My name is R. Christopher Almy and I am the District Attorney of Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. I submit this testimony in support of LD 2084.

The Penobscot County District Attorney's Office receives VOCA funding. Two of the victim witness advocates of the Penobscot County District Attorney's Office are funded by VOCA. Victim witness advocates provide support and communication to victims and make sure that the victim's voice is heard. Victim witness advocates are also responsible for much of the leg work of coordinating trials by gathering availability and travel accommodations of the victims and witnesses needed for trial. As it is, our victim witness advocates have a tremendous workload and to lose two advocates would be devastating to our office.

There are also community partners, such as the Child Advocacy Center, who play a critical role in the successful prosecution of crimes and would be adversely affected by a loss of funding.

For these reasons, I submit this testimony in support of LD 2084.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Christopher Almy".

R. Christopher Almy  
District Attorney