



Restorative Justice Project Maine

30 January 2024

Dear Senator Carney and Rep. Mooney,

In order for our legal system to provide justice in the wake of crimes, the accounts of victims must be heard. In Maine's court system, victims are represented by Victim-Witness advocates who listen to what they have experienced, provide comfort, and work with them to ease their way back to normal life. It is difficult, emotional and complex work that requires special training and an open heart and mind.

A story in last week's Bangor Daily News by Erin Rhoda describes the responses of VWAs to the mass shootings in Lewiston. For three weeks Suna Shaw, whose primary responsibilities are with the District Court in Portland, met with survivors and the families of those killed in the mass shooting, called to service by the Maine Attorney General's office.

Shaw's experience with homicide cases was invaluable in her stay in Lewiston. She is equally adept at helping victims recover from assaults, sexual violence, burglaries and other affronts.

Funding for VWAs comes from a federal program that has dwindled in recent years. LD 2084 will provide \$6M in supplemental funding that will keep the advocates on the case through the coming years.

The Restorative Justice Project Maine Legislative Committee strongly supports Victim-Witness Advocates and urges an Ought-to-Pass vote on LD 2084.

Thank you.

Jay Davis for the Legislative Committee of RJPM
Belfast

Restorative Justice Project

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Jay Davis
Restorative Justice Project Maine
LD 2084

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