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January 31, 2024

Maine Legislature
Judiciary Committee
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes. In anticipation of a massive reduction in existing federal funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the bill would provide State funds needed to continue providing essential services for victims of crimes, including advocacy, financial support, and legal service related to both criminal civil cases. The panoply of these services is broad, providing support for victims of sexual abuse, elder abuse, child abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, and homicide.

As a criminal prosecutor for the State of Maine, and as a member of the Board of Directors for Pine Tree Legal Assistance, I have witnessed firsthand the dire need for these services and the dramatic impact that they have on the lives of victims of crime in Maine. The other New England states already have acted to fill the impending VOCA funding gap, as should Maine. Therefore, I urge you to vote in support of LD 2084. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carlos Diaz, Esq.