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LD 2290

An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Public Hearing Date: April 10, 2024
Testimony in Support of LD LD 2290

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Erica Brown and I reside in Scarborough, Maine. I submit this letter in support of LD 2290.

The current law (LD 765) allows forensic interviews to be used to mitigate some of the harm of having children having to fully re-disclose their abuse in a courtroom. It is a positive step in mitigating some re-traumatization that happens when children have to re-disclose trauma repeatedly, and especially in a courtroom setting with many strangers, and their abuser.

There are children currently in need of that same protection and care. Because the law didn't explicitly state that it applies to pending cases, Judges aren't able to admit the interviews. Please extend this care to pending cases, and help children who are in this situation right now.

There is a child I know that is impacted by this, and it would mean a tremendous difference in their court experience to have this amendment passed. Please extend the current decision to include forensic interviews to the children who need it most, going through these processes right now.

Additionally, as a licensed social worker who works with youth with an array of traumatic experiences, it is important that any retelling of trauma events is done with great support and caution. As earlier shared, any retelling of traumatic experiences can lead to re-traumatization, and severe impair any level of clinical progress.

For these reasons, I am in support of LD 2290 as emergency legislation.

Thank you,
Erica Brown