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March 5, 2025

Senator Hickman, Chair  
Representative Supica, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 662 – *An Act to Fund Military Sexual Trauma Liaisons*

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information as you consider LD 665, *An Act to Fund Military Sexual Trauma Liaisons*.

This bill would appropriate \$375,500 annually for military sexual trauma liaisons. This funding was a recommendation of the Governor's Advisory Council on Military Sexual Trauma. Specifically, recommendation A1(c) on page 8 of the report indicates that military specific liaisons should be established via the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) to provide victim advocate services with knowledge specific to military resources and procedures.

As you consider this proposal, we'd like to make sure you are aware that the current language lacks specificity about how these funds flow to MECASA via OCFS' Violence Intervention and Response Program's existing contract with them. Without specific language, it is likely OCFS would have to follow state purchasing rules to implement this program, including requiring an RFP for these services despite the report's recommendation specifying MECASA as the designated provider. This could be addressed if the Legislature were to amend the bill to specifically designate MECASA as the intended contractor for these services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

*Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW*

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW  
Director  
Office of Child and Family Services  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services