

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 12, 2025

Re: LD 117, An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing *in support of* LD 117.

The Maine Legislature has many critical choices to make on how to allocate limited resources. Funding sexual assault services as requested in this bill is a prudent and warranted choice. We know there already is a significant need for the sexual assault services and dedicated skilled advocates who provide them. The number of victims has been increasing as demonstrated by the statistics already provided to you by others. The salaries for the advocates are modest. The range of services that are available are impressive and needed, helping victims recover from the trauma of an assault, achieve justice and get back their lives.

Sometimes we forget that the victims of these crimes are diverse as we as a people are diverse and thus, we need

services and skilled advocates that can meet the needs of all of types of victims. Helping a victim to obtain justice and regain their life is one of the best uses of state monies.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 117.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME