

February 20, 2025

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

My name is Ann Correia and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Rape Response Services.

I am submitting testimony in support of LD 117, An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services.

Advocating for survivors of sexual assault is both deeply rewarding and incredibly demanding. The vital work requires ongoing training to stay informed on best practices, trauma-informed care, and resources, ensuring survivors receive the best possible support. The on-call hotline work is emotionally intense, requiring immediate crisis response at any hour. It is not easy work-listening to survivors' stories, offering guidance, and holding space for their pain takes resilience and dedication. Despite the challenges, the work is critical and I take pride in it. Providing support can be life-changing for survivors, helping them reclaim their power, find healing, and know they are not alone.

A higher wage means stability and the ability to continue this work without burning out. It acknowledges the emotional toll, the on-call demands, and the expertise and experience I bring to supporting survivors. Fair pay allows me to stay in this field, fully present and committed, without sacrificing my own well-being.

Thank you for taking the time to hear how important LD 117 is to me and the many advocates in Maine.



Ann Correia