



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of LD 875
An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
March 19, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23 in the Legislature, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I submit this testimony to express my strong support of LD 875, “An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence.”

LD 875 would provide necessary funding for essential services for victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pervasive but often invisible issue in our state. Between 2020 and 2022, nearly half of all homicides in Maine were the result of domestic abuse.[1] Nationally, intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime,[2] with 29% of women and 10% of men having experienced some form of domestic abuse that impacted their work.[3] And this type of crime is often not reported, so it would not be a stretch to assume that these numbers are likely even higher.[4]

Given the extremity and prevalence of this issue, services for people experiencing this violence are essential. The services needed in response to domestic violence are wide ranging – from support services to help people understand that they’re experiencing domestic violence in the first place to services that ensure victims have access to legal services to shelters and mental health services that provide an immediate safety net after a victim has managed the immense feat of leaving an abusive environment. And there are countless more services that are equally as important. So many services are needed because abuse of this nature impacts every part of a person’s life.[5] But each of these services requires funding, and I strongly believe that it should be our priority as legislators to ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to every service they need to get somewhere safe, recover from any physical or mental trauma they are experiencing and build a life free from violence and fear.

I urge you to pass this bill and fund these vital services. Victims of domestic violence have been long overlooked and deserve every resource we can give them to ensure that they can thrive.

[1] <https://www.mainepublic.org/courts-and-crime/2024-01-17/between-2020-and-2022-nearly-half-of-all-homicides-in-maine-were-the-result-of-domestic-abuse>

[2] <https://www.harborhousedv.org/resources/statistics/#citations;>
<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>

[3] <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

[4] <https://online.simmons.edu/blog/intimate-partner-violence-domestic-abuse-nurse-identification/#:~:text=Most%20cases%20of%20intimate%20partner,for%20his%20or%20her%20behavior>.

[5] <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/> (discussing mental health and workplace impacts)