

Amy Cooper
Pittston
LD 117

41 Agry Point Road
Pittston, ME. 04345
March 16, 2025

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

My name is Amy Cooper, and I am a resident of Kennebec County. I am writing to you in support of LD 117.

My daughter Gabrielle Cooper is a Human Trafficking Housing Navigator with Penquis and as part of her employment, also performs on call services for survivors of sexual assault. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology at Dartmouth College and was active in the school's Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault for three years. She earned her Master's degree in Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. Helping survivors to deal with both the immediate trauma and then aiding them in rebuilding their lives is not just a job for her; it is a passion, it is who she is.

It is beyond unfortunate that the people who work in this field do not make a livable wage.

This work requires employees to take helpline calls at all hours, including weekends and holidays. They are frequently required to make multi-hour accompaniments at area hospitals, often in the middle of the night. They are required to be adept at multitasking and prioritizing. They often are called upon to accompany clients to court hearings. Gabrielle makes regular visits to jails and homeless shelters. As one can imagine, this work takes a physical and mental toll on employees. At 5:00 pm, they cannot simply shut off their brains and emotions after assisting and being fully present for clients who are experiencing extremely difficult times in their lives.

I ask you all to please consider financially compensating the kind, empathetic and hard working people in this field. It is only right that they are allowed to afford the basic necessities in life.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amy Cooper