

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 17, 2025

Re: LD 875, An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims
of Domestic Violence

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 875.

The Maine Legislature has many critical choices to make
on how to allocate limited resources, especially on an
emergency basis. Providing funds to support essential
services for victims of domestic violence is critical now for
the following reasons, and I implore you to vote “ought to
pass” on LD 875.

The salaries for the advocates are modest. The range of
services that are available are impressive and needed,
helping victims of domestic violence recover from the
trauma of the violence, achieve justice and get back their
lives.

State funding for domestic violence services has been flat for several years, but unfortunately several major changes have occurred warranting this emergency funding bill.

Operational costs have skyrocketed, and made even worse by the fact that the federal government has severely cut substantial support through grants pursuant to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Whether the federal government will reliably provide any meaningful support in the future is unknown at this juncture.

Given reduced funding and rising costs, service providers are strapped and finding themselves short staffed and cutting back on critical services. I know none of you want to lose the momentum the State of Maine has gained over the years through its support of the buildout of a critical network of service providers and advocates.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 875.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME