

Craig Bramley
Portland
LD 117

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Portland, Maine
March 18, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Myer, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Craig Bramley. I am a resident of Portland, and I am writing to you in support of LD 117.

I am an attorney at a firm that handles sexual abuse cases as part of our practice. Through both my professional and personal experiences, I have witnessed the devastating impacts of sexual assault. Unfortunately, sexual assault and abuse are pervasive in modern society, affecting individuals of all ages, political beliefs, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The trauma inflicted by these crimes can permanently alter survivors' lives. It is impossible to overstate the value of advocacy, frontline response, and other sexual assault services in mitigating harm to survivors and society as a whole. When sexual assault is prevented, and survivors receive support in the critical days following an assault, society benefits. Those affected are empowered to live full and productive lives, and the spread of harm is contained.

Working in sexual assault services is challenging. These professionals confront trauma daily—trauma that most of us try to avoid. Their work requires talent, skill, training, and experience, and the risk of burnout is high. Since all Maine citizens benefit from the burdens these workers shoulder, we must support their efforts and ensure they are fairly compensated. The funds appropriated by LD 117 represent the minimum necessary to provide essential services that help mitigate the devastating impacts of sexual assault. A shortfall in funding will not be covered by private sources. Failure to pass LD 117 would result in reduced services, leading to ongoing negative consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 117.

Thank you.