

Peyton Hebert
Fort Kent
LD 875

Testimony of Peyton Hebert

In Support of LD 875, An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

March 19, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Peyton Hebert. I am a resident of Aroostook County and I am writing to share why support for this critical funding is so important.

The Hope & Justice Project is a well-known and appreciated organization within Aroostook County. For several years, this organization has gone above and beyond, exceeding expectations and meeting the needs of families who have been unfortunately faced with domestic violence. The negative impact of not having the Hope & Justice Project supporting the families of Aroostook County (and beyond) would be devastating as a professional and community member.

As I sit here and write this testimonial, I can think of two very specific occasions where the Hope & Justice Project has stepped in and offered support and resources. I am a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, practicing in Fort Kent, I spend a minimum of one day a week providing counseling services to school aged children at the local schools. A Mom with four children relocated to the St. John Valley, leaving behind a very unhealthy and unsafe environment; the family resided at the shelter until Mom was able to secure safe housing for herself and her children, due to the intense amount of support provided by Hope & Justice Project. On another occasion, during a follow up conversation with a client's Mom, Mom expressed that she was struggling with ongoing domestic violence in her home, with her consent, I was able to connect with staff at the Fort Kent Hope & Justice office and immediately someone responded and was able to provide the needed support to this Mom & child.

Repeatedly, the Hope & Justice Project has stepped in and supported several families in need, no questions asked. If funding for this organization were to be decreased and/or seized in any way, it would be not only be detrimental to those individuals who need the support and advocacy, that only the trained domestic violence advocates can provide, but to the entire community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time,
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