

Melissa Stoliker
Fort Kent
LD 875

Testimony of Melissa Stoliker, PMHNP
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 Meyers, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Melissa Stoliker, PMHNP. I am a resident of Aroostook County and writing to share why support for this critical funding is so important.

Hope and Justice Project has been a valuable resource for the citizens of Aroostook County. In my position as Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for the last 9 years, as well as years prior to that as a registered nurse, I have had the pleasure to work with many of the advocates, take offered trainings, and refer my patients who are struggling within domestic violence situations to the staff at Hope and Justice.

These advocates have empowered the clients that they work with to make positive changes for their own safety and the safety of their children. They educate clients on the tactics used by abusers to continue control and offer solutions to improve their safety. The advocates work tirelessly to support clients in meetings and court proceedings, often where they have no one else in attendance to support them.

The Hope and Justice shelter has provided safety, comfort and basic needs to so many citizens over the years and continues to be an option for those leaving abusive situations and relationships. Without this option for a roof over their head, many would not find the strength to leave a negative environment. Having the shelter and shelter staff there to support them while they work towards improving their own life, is a critical mission for the Hope and Justice Project.

Hope and Justice has been a very active entity within the public, often setting up resource tables at mental health events, health fairs, and other community activities to spread the word about the services that they offer. They educate the community and bring awareness about domestic violence, which is all too often stigmatized and overlooked.

I implore you to look at the positive impact that Hope and Justice Project has had on the communities and citizens in Aroostook County and consider the services vital to improving the living conditions and wellness of so many in our area.

Sincerely,

Melissa Stoliker, PMHNP
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
Fish River Rural Health, Fort Kent, Maine