

Dana Crane
Rockland
LD 875

Please allocate funding in support of domestic abuse services in our state!

I teach at Oceanside High School in Rockland, and I bear witness all too regularly to student accounts of domestic violence in their homes. According to the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey results, 1 out of 3 of our teenagers report experiencing abuse in relationships. Although these numbers are staggering, it's comforting that we're able to have a representative from New Hope Midcoast come into the classroom and teach students not only about how to recognize and protect against abuse, but also about the support systems we have in place in our community, available to anyone experiencing abuse. Without that support, many students may feel hopeless about their capacity to survive when they meet hard times. Especially considering the housing crisis our region is experiencing, and it is vital that we have emergency shelter available to those whose lives are endangered.

Some accounts from students:

“Do it so people can have a place to stay instead of a tent! They helped my mom out!”

“I think they should be funded—people need help getting out of abusive relationships.”

“I don't even know why it's a question, bro. People that don't have help stay in abusive relationships, then they get hurt and could die. We don't want people dead!”

Thank You!

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