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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of

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

Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of LD 875: An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence.

As lawmakers, we have a duty to ensure that our policies are not only responsive to crises but also proactive in supporting individuals and families in times of extreme vulnerability. Domestic violence survivors often face overwhelming barriers when trying to leave an abusive situation—lack of financial resources, housing insecurity, limited access to legal assistance, and fear for their safety. No one should ever be forced to choose between their safety and economic survival.

LD 875 takes a necessary step toward addressing this reality by securing \$4 million annually in state funding for essential services, including shelter, advocacy, and crisis response. It sends a clear message that Maine prioritizes survivors and is committed to ensuring they have the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

I urge the committee to support this measure and advance it forward. Our communities are stronger when we support those in crisis, and LD 875 is an investment in safety, dignity, and justice for survivors across Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask the committee to vote Ought to Pass on this critical legislation.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven