

Ashley Vissers

Regarding ME LD 875 An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
3/18/2025

To Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and the honorable members of the committee,

My name is Ashley Vissers and I am a survivor of domestic violence. I am testifying today in support of LD 875.

I grew up in a home with domestic abuse, but I was not aware that what my father was doing to my sister, my mother, and me was abuse. It was not until New Hope Midcoast (then it was New Hope for Women) did a presentation about domestic abuse in my high school health class that I realized what we were going through was not normal and was, in fact, abuse. Through the resources New Hope Miscoast provided during that class and subsequent resources my mom received from them - most importantly (but not all inclusively) counseling - we were able to escape from our situation. New Hope Midcoast, like many other programs for survivors and people trying to escape domestic abuse, relies on state and federal funding to help those that need it. I do not know where I would be, the person I would be, or even if I would be alive today if New Hope Midcoast had not come to my school that day. Funding these programs is vital to every person who is trying to escape their abuser - for themselves and for their children.

I hope that LD 875 receives the full support of the committee. Thank you for allowing me this time to testify.