

# STATE OF MAINE

**Neil E. McLean, Jr.**  
District Attorney

**Joshua Klein-Golden**  
Deputy District Attorney



**Assistant District Attorneys**  
**James A. Andrews**  
**Claire G. Andrews**  
**Richard R. Beauchesne**  
**Katherine M. Hudson-MacRae**  
**Patricia A. Mador**  
**Andrew P. Matulis**  
**Ellex N. St. Pierre**  
**Jaclyn L. Salevsky**  
**Nathan R. Walsh**  
**Elizabeth L. Wood**  
**Brian Yeager**

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT THREE

**“An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services”**  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
LD 117  
Public Hearing Date: March 20, 2025


Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Neil E. McLean Jr., and I am the District Attorney for Prosecutorial District 3, representing Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties. I am here on behalf of District 3 to testify in support of LD 117; an Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services.

I am providing written testimony in both my role as the District Attorney for District 3, charged with prosecuting all crimes involving sexual assault including those against children, as well as a member of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). As a member of the MDT, my prosecutors, across three counties, collaborate regularly in criminal prosecutions with our partners in the MDT, to include law enforcement and the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), which is a program of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS).

As a long-standing member of the MDT, District 3 has a strong connection with the CAC of Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties (CACAFO). CACAFO provides a child-centered, trauma informed, multidisciplinary approach in instances of child sexual abuse and other forms of child abuse and neglect. Children can receive a forensic interview with someone who has training and expertise in talking to kids in a non-leading, legally sound, trauma informed way. Caregivers are supported throughout the process and connected with additional services and resources for themselves and their children. MDT members are able to gather the information they need from the forensic interview, which leads to more thorough investigations, and more effective and efficient criminal prosecutions. The CAC forensic interviewers are experts in their field, and are able to be called to testify as expert witnesses at trial. Their work is invaluable to successful prosecutions involving child victims of sexual assault, and for securing justice for survivors.

In closing, I am here to support LD 117 because of the significant contributions it provides to the criminal justice system in matters involving child victims, as well as to the children themselves. We have seen in recent times what it looks like when the CAC is short staffed. I understand that it can be difficult for the CAC to fill open positions because the salary rate is not enough to attract candidates, and as a practical matter it does not reflect the emotional burden and stress that this work can place on someone. Lack of staff and resources increases the amount of time it takes for children and families to get an appointment for an interview. These resource deficiencies can result in delays of support and assistance for the children and their families. It can also delay the pursuit of justice on behalf of child victims. For these reasons I ask that you support LD 117.

Sincerely,

A large, bold, black handwritten signature, likely of Neil E. McLean Jr., is written over the typed name and title.

Neil E. McLean Jr.  
District Attorney  
District 3