

Mark Tappan
Portland
LD 117

Mark Tappan
135 Brackett St. #1
Portland, ME 04102
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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Myer, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee in support of LD117. I am a resident of Portland and a Professor of Education, Emeritus, at Colby College, where I taught for 31 years.

During my career at Colby, I worked with many students interested in working both to prevent sexual assault and to provide support and services to those who have experienced sexual assault. To do so, however, they deserve a living wage—one that recognizes the importance of this work. As you know, sexual assault advocates have difficult and complex jobs that require them to be on-call regularly overnight and on weekends - a reality their current wages do not reflect. LD117 raises annual wages to better align with positions with comparable experience and training and will ensure that dedicated and well-trained staff continue to provide services and support that are so desperately needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD117. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mark Tappan
Portland