

Amanda Moscone
Bangor
LD 670

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Amanda, and I am writing this to strongly support LD 670, “An Act to Address Coercive Control in Domestic Abuse Cases.” I am a survivor of domestic abuse, sexual coercion, and post-separation control. I know firsthand that leaving an abusive relationship does not always mean the control ends. Instead, it often just takes on new forms.

For 17 years, I was in a relationship where my ability to say no was routinely ignored. Sexual coercion was a regular part of my life, stripping away my sense of autonomy. When I finally left in 2018, I thought I was reclaiming my freedom. But leaving did not mean I was free from control—it just changed the way that control was exerted.

Since our separation, I have continued to experience the same power struggles that existed in our marriage—except now, they play out through parenting, communication, and financial dynamics. The person who once ignored my boundaries in private now resists cooperation in co-parenting, dismisses agreements, and makes everyday decisions unnecessarily difficult.

This control shows up in ways that might not leave physical scars, but it still has a lasting impact:

- Withholding and delaying financial obligations – Child support payments are inconsistent, medical expenses are disputed, and financial cooperation is a constant battle.
- Undermining my role as a parent – Decisions about our children are ignored, boundaries are disregarded, and structure is made more difficult to maintain.
- Passive-aggressive and dismissive behavior – Every necessary interaction is met with resistance, avoidance, or blame, turning even basic communication into an exhausting power struggle.

This is what coercive control looks like after separation. It is not always physical, and it is not always illegal—but that does not mean it isn’t damaging. The emotional and psychological toll of having to constantly defend boundaries, chase down agreements, and manage someone’s efforts to create instability is very real.

Right now, Maine’s laws don’t fully recognize this kind of abuse. Survivors like me are often left without clear protections because the law still focuses primarily on physical harm. But coercive control—whether it happens in a relationship or after separation—can shape every aspect of a survivor’s life. It can make moving on feel impossible.

That is why LD 670 is so important. It acknowledges that abuse is not always physical, that control can exist even after separation, and that survivors deserve protections that reflect the full reality of domestic abuse.

I urge you to pass this bill. It’s time for Maine’s laws to reflect what so many survivors already know—abuse does not always end when you leave. It simply changes form.

Thank you for your time and for recognizing the need for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,
Amanda M
Survivor & Advocate