



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of
LD 117, An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, March 20

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of [LD 117](#), “An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services.”

Survivors of sexual assault, abuse and harassment have endured living nightmares. Even decades after such dehumanizing violence and disregard, flashbacks can come out of nowhere. As a survivor of a rape by a stranger in a park at the age of 12, I know firsthand the life-saving, spirit-enriching impact that advocates who provide sexual assault support services can have over a lifetime on a soul’s ability to heal.

Unfortunately, dozens, even hundreds, of advocates have left the field in recent years, citing low pay as a reason. Our system cannot support survivors if we do not support the advocates who support them. We must find the money in the cushions of the couch if we have to in order to fund sexual assault support services. We cannot fail survivors for yet another session.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of this bill.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14