

**Testimony in support of LD 1139
to the Committee on Judiciary**

April 17, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 1139, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes.

I am in complete support of ongoing annual General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund services for victims of crime.

An exceptional report by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority: [Victim Need Report: Service Providers' Perspectives on the Needs of Crime Victims and Service Gaps](#) states the need for these services so well: “Victimization may result in physical harm and/or psychological symptoms. Victims may experience severe bodily harm or disfigurement as a result of the crime or may experience debilitating health problems from psychological stress brought on by the victimization. ^[1] Adults often experience anxiety, depression, and PTSD after a victimization such as losing a loved one to a crime, ^[2] elder abuse, ^[3] domestic violence, ^[4] and sexual assault. ^[5] The cumulative impacts of violence on multiple areas of victim’s lives can impact overall well-being by disrupting a victim’s ability to engage in day-to-day activities, including work and school. ^[6] Victim service providers may address these impacts of violence through a variety of services based on victim need.”

[The full report is available for your consideration.](#)

Victim’s services are a critical component of the Justice System.

We are a single community in Maine, and our neighbors who are victims of crime deserve and need the critical support these services provide. Without adequate funding, victims, our neighbors, will not have the tools, resources and support systems to properly heal. Their safety and wellbeing is the mission of LD 1139. If we are unable to pass this bill and provide these services, then we as a community become offenders.

I hope you will support LD 1139.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine.

<https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/victim-need-report-service-providers-perspectives-on-the-needs-of-crime-victims-and-service-gaps/>
https://researchhub.icjia-api.cloud/uploads/ICJIA_Victim_service_provider_Needs-191011T20092931.pdf