

**Testimony in Support of LD 1684: An Act to Exclude from Eligibility for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program a Person Serving a Sentence for Certain Domestic Violence Crimes**

Esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

I am honored to write as one of the newest board members of *Finding Our Voices*, an organization that supports women survivors of domestic abuse across the state of Maine. Since joining this organization, I have been stunned by the devastating statistics of domestic abuse homicides in our state. Many of these tragedies were preventable. It is unacceptable that victims are being retraumatized, or worse, endangered again by a system that allows early release from violent abusers under community confinement.

LD 1684 is a critical and urgent step toward ensuring the safety of Maine's women and children. We cannot allow individuals convicted of serious domestic violence offenses to return to our neighborhoods prematurely under electronic monitoring programs that, in many cases, are not enough to protect their former partners.

Community confinement monitoring is a privilege. It should never be granted to those who have used their proximity and power to control, harm, and threaten the lives of others. Survivors deserve the assurance that when an abuser is sentenced, the consequences are real—and that their safety is prioritized over convenience or cost-cutting measures.

Passing this bill sends a clear message: *Maine takes domestic violence seriously*. We value the lives of women. We will not compromise their safety for anything. I urge you to pass LD 1684 without hesitation. This legislation could save lives.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,

Susan Brennan  
Board Member, Finding Our Voices