

**Testimony in support of LD 1695**  
**the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**  
April 28, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus 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 1695, An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-sex-trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol

The trauma experienced by someone who is a victim of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation is unimaginable. Evidence based protocols will provide the most caring support possible. Maine is fortunate to have exceptional organizations such as the [Maine Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Network](#) to develop the protocols and train law enforcement and other organizations that need to implement them. LD1695 exemplifies their core philosophy: “Because the issue is so complex, it is critical that new efforts follow common principles to ensure the highest level of quality.”

LD 1695 directs the Department of Public Safety to use new efforts, protocols developed by organizations in Maine STEN to follow common principles that Maine STEN are:

- *Built on existing statewide and/or regional training efforts and curricula.*
- *Reliant on local expertise and information and connected with local experts as well as statewide infrastructure.*
- *Strategically aimed at audiences where there is the highest risk for exploitation or the greatest opportunity for identification and referral.*
- *Inclusive of survivors in the development and implementation of programming.*

The foundation for LD 1695 already exists in these outstanding organizations. I am grateful for their dedication. LD 1695 follows one of their Guiding Principles as it is a “broad community response necessary to make social and institutional change”.

I hope you will support LD 1695.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine.

<https://www.mainesten.org/>