



**Holly Rae Eaton**

P.O. Box 277

Deer Isle, ME 04627

Phone: (207) 610-9281

[Holly.Eaton@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Holly.Eaton@legislature.maine.gov)

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

April 29, 2025

***Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton 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  
Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee***

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes several island and coastal communities. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in strong support of LD 1684.

Earlier this session, I sponsored LD 670 to address patterns of coercive control, because I believe Maine must continually work to strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence. Our laws must meet the realities survivors face — both the visible and invisible forms of abuse — and ensure public safety is prioritized.

LD 1684 is a critical step toward closing a dangerous gap in our system. It is unacceptable that individuals convicted of the most serious domestic violence crimes — including Class A and B felonies — can currently access early release through the Community Confinement Monitoring Program. The tragic death of Virginia Cookson highlights the devastating consequences that can result when our policies fail to protect survivors.

Domestic abuse overwhelmingly impacts women, and the consequences extend far beyond physical harm. Releasing violent offenders early not only places survivors' physical safety at risk — it also jeopardizes their ability to heal, rebuild, and achieve sustainable mental and emotional health after enduring trauma. Survivors deserve the chance to move forward with security and dignity, without the fear that their abuser may reenter their lives prematurely through a system that was meant to safeguard the public.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1684. We owe it to the survivors, the families, and the communities impacted by domestic violence to ensure our laws reflect the seriousness and lifelong effects of these crimes.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the safety and well-being of Maine's families.