

May 5, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Melissa Martin, and I am offering testimony today on behalf of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA), the organization which represents and serves Maine's sexual violence prevention and response programs as well as Maine's Children's Advocacy Centers. MECASA initiates and advocates for victim-centered public policy; provides expert training, technical assistance, and resources for providers and partners; and funds the service providers in your communities.

**MECASA is here today in support of LD 1822, "An Act to Enact the Maine Online Data Privacy Act."** Thank you to Representative Kuhn for sponsoring this important legislation.

LD 1822 would give consumers a range of rights regarding their digital data. The bill would apply to for-profit companies also known as "controllers." LD 1822 would prohibit controllers from the collection, processing, and sharing of consumer data, except where it's strictly necessary to provide or maintain a specific product or service requested by the consumer. Controllers would be banned altogether from selling sensitive data, such as sexual history and precise geolocation data. If LD 1822 passes, all Maine consumers would be able to access personal data collected and opt out of the processing of personal data for targeted advertising; the sale of personal data; and profiling, if the data are used to make decisions that produce legal or other significant effects

Among stalking victims 18-24 years old, 16% said their stalker shared nude, semi-nude, and/or sexually explicit photos/videos of them.<sup>1</sup> Sexual violence may be part of a stalker's pattern of behavior. There are many types of sexually violent stalking that could better be prevented with the passage of LD 1822 including following, monitoring, and/or surveilling a victim while planning or after committing a sexual assault; nonconsensual creation of sexual images (photoshop, deepfake); and posing as the victim to solicit sexual activity.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Stalking-Sexual-Violence-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Passing LD 1822 helps support the privacy and access rights of survivors of sexual harm and stalking who vitally need access and control over their personal data to protect their own safety.

For these reasons, we strongly support the bill. Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support LD 1822 and would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

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### About Maine's Sexual Assault Service Providers

One in five Mainers will experience sexual assault at some point in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> Each year, 19,000 Mainers will experience sexual violence.<sup>4</sup>

Maine's [sexual violence service providers](#) provide free and confidential services across the state to victims/survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault and those close to them, as well as to individuals who wish to increase their understanding of the issues. Just some of the services include a 24-hour statewide sexual assault helpline, crisis intervention and information, support groups, in-person accompaniment and advocacy through the medical and legal systems, and school- and community-based prevention education. Services are provided for a victim/survivor regardless of when they experienced sexual violence, and regardless of what type of sexual violence they experienced. Types of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment and gender-based bullying, child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, stalking, sex trafficking, and sexual violence within an intimate partner relationship.

*24/7 Confidential*  
*Maine Sexual Assault Helpline: [1-800-871-7741](tel:1-800-871-7741)*

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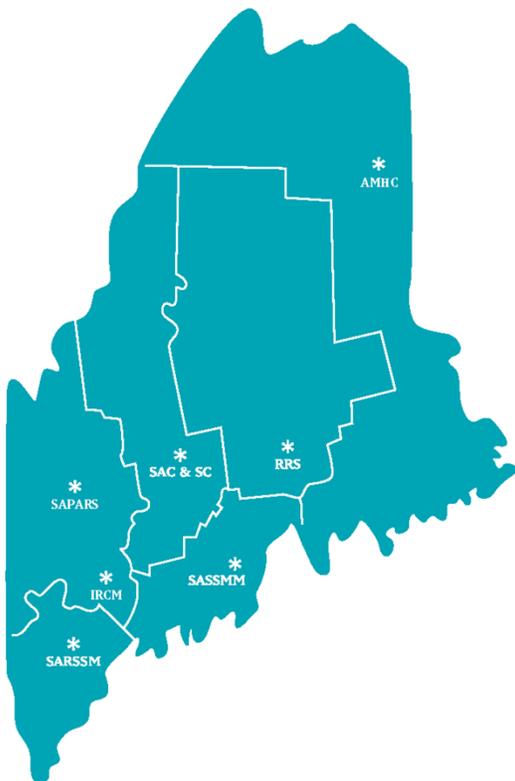
<sup>3</sup> Murray, C., Dumont, R & Shaler, G. (2022). *Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing public policy for safer communities*. Maine Statistical Analysis Center. University of Southern Maine.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

# mecasa

MAINE COALITION AGAINST  
SEXUAL ASSAULT

info@mecasa.org | mecasa.org  
207-626-0034



STATEWIDE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT HELPLINE  
1-800-871-7741

Free. Private. 24/7.

## MAINE'S SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT CENTERS

### AMHC Sexual Assault Services (AMHC)

Serving Aroostook, Hancock, & Washington Counties •  
amhcsas.org

### Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

Serving Androscoggin & Cumberland Counties • ircofmaine.org

### Rape Response Services (RRS)

Serving Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties • rrsonline.org

### Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)

Serving Androscoggin, Oxford & Franklin Counties and the towns of  
Bridgton & Harrison • sapars.org

### Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center (SAC & SC)

Serving Kennebec & Somerset Counties • silentnomore.org

### Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)

Serving Cumberland & York Counties • sarssm.org

### Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)

Serving Eastern Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Knox, Waldo & Lincoln  
Counties • sassmm.org

## MORE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

Maine TransNet • mainetrans.net • info@mainetransnet.org

Wabanaki Women's Coalition • wabanakiwomenscoalition.org  
207-763-3478

Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Advocacy Center • 207-551-3639

Houlton Band of Maliseets, Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Advocacy Center • 207-532-6401

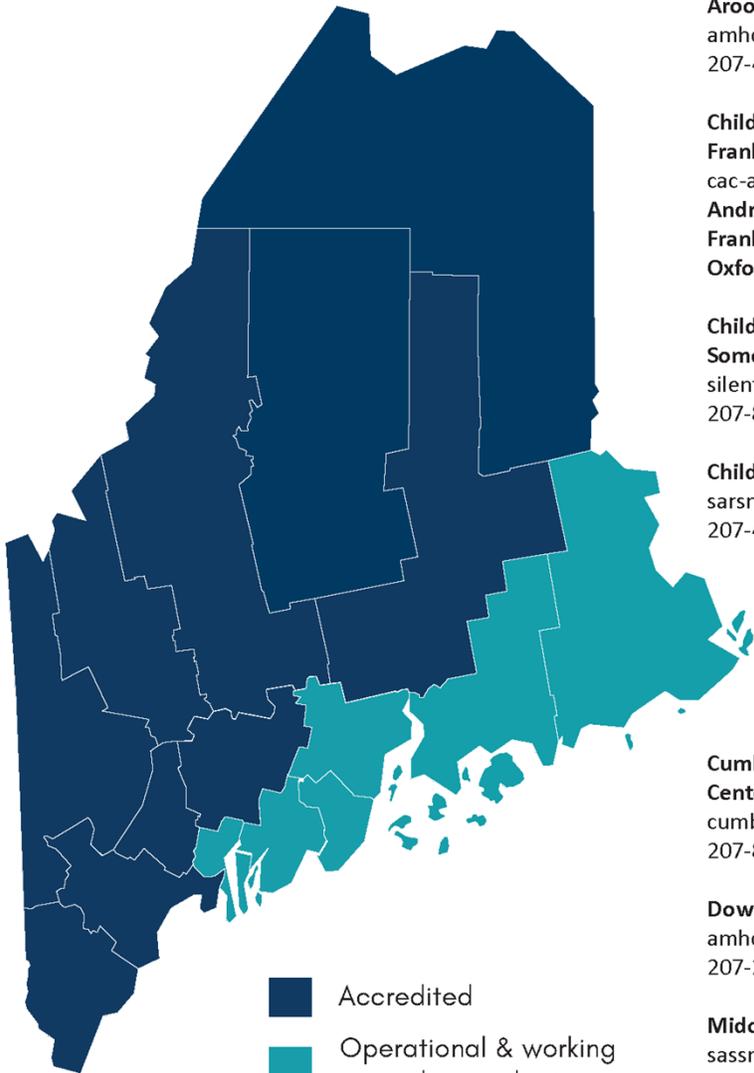
Indian Township Passamaquoddy, Domestic & Sexual  
Violence Advocacy Center • 207-214-1917

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations • 1-877-853-2613

Penobscot Indian Nation, Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Advocacy Center • 207-631-4886



# Maine's Children's Advocacy Centers



**Aroostook County Children's Advocacy Center**  
amhcsas.org  
207-472-6134

**Children's Advocacy Center of Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties**  
cac-afco.org  
**Androscoggin:** 207-784-0436  
**Franklin:** 207-778-9777  
**Oxford:** 207-739-1228

**Children's Advocacy Center of Kennebec & Somerset Counties**  
silentnomore.org/about-our-cac  
207-861-4491

**Children's Advocacy Center of York County**  
sarsmm.org  
207-459-2380

**Cumberland County Children's Advocacy Center**  
cumberlandcountycac.org  
207-879-6160

**Downeast Children's Advocacy Center**  
amhcsas.org  
207-255-3687

**Midcoast Children's Advocacy Center**  
sassmm.org  
207-522-7162

**Penquis Children's Advocacy Center**  
penquiscac.org  
207-974-2469