



LEWISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

David St. Pierre
Chief of Police



May 7, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is David St. Pierre and I am the Chief of the Lewiston Police Department. I am here to **testify in support of LD 1425, An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services.**

Law enforcement officers - and all first responders - are trained to respond to a crisis. We run toward the danger, because that is our job. After the events of October 25th, law enforcement officers across Maine did what they always do: they put on their uniforms, showed up for their shifts, responded to calls, served their communities, and got the job done.

The Maine Resiliency Center has served over 600 Maine people from over 60 Maine cities and towns. The MRC doesn't just serve survivors and their families. It serves and is available to anyone impacted by October 25, including first responders of all types: law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, Life Flight responders, doctors, nurses, teachers, and many others on the front lines of responding to people in crisis.

The men and women of the Lewiston Police Department are here to protect and to serve, but we are not clinicians or trauma experts. Throughout the last year and a half, we have relied on the MRC to support people impacted by the shooting, to help families access the resources they need, and to help build long-term community resilience.

When people have a place to turn for help, particularly a place with services they trust, they have a path forward. Services provided by the MRC are part of that path forward for so many. The MRC's services have helped prevent long-term harm in the broader community and have helped keep first responders across the state healthy and able to keep serving. That makes our communities safer.



171 Park St • Lewiston, Maine • 04240 • Phone 207-513-3137 • Fax 207-795-9007
www.lewistonpd.org



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Lewiston has gotten a lot of attention in the last year and a half. On behalf of the Lewiston Police Department, we are honored by the support and encouragement we've received. And I want to be clear: Lewiston was not the only community whose first responders ran toward the danger on October 25. We did that in partnership with many other law enforcement agencies and first responders from across Maine, and we are grateful to the support that the Maine Resiliency Center has provided to first responders, and anyone impacted by the shooting. We hope you support this bill.



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