

Mira Ptacin
Peaks Island
LD 1216

Testimonial in Support of LD126 – Maine Suicide Prevention Line

My name is Mira Ptacin, and I am a writer, mother, educator, and longtime volunteer working with incarcerated women at the Maine Correctional Center. I am writing in strong support of LD126, a bill that would provide essential funding and resources to support Maine's suicide prevention and crisis response infrastructure.

I've seen firsthand the difference that access to mental health care and crisis support can make. For over a decade, I've led memoir-writing workshops for women who are incarcerated—many of whom are survivors of trauma, domestic violence, and mental illness. Time and again, I've heard stories of people who reached their lowest points with no one to turn to. A phone call, a voice on the other end of the line, can mean the difference between life and death.

LD126 is more than a policy—it's a lifeline. It ensures that when someone in crisis picks up the phone and calls 988, they are met with compassion, not a wait time. With trained counselors who understand the complexity of mental health challenges, and who can connect callers to local support, this bill makes our communities safer, stronger, and more humane.

Maine cannot afford to underfund its suicide prevention efforts. Not when suicide remains a leading cause of death for our youth. Not when mental health needs are on the rise, especially in our rural communities. And not when the solution is within reach.

Please support LD126. Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,
Mira Ptacin
Peaks Island, Maine