

**Testimony in support of LD 1978
to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary**

May 19, 2025

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

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 1978 An Act Regarding Government Liability Related to Sexual Acts Toward Minors.

This bill supports our young people in particular by removing the statute of limitations for taking action on sexual offenses acted upon them. There are many reasons that these offenses may not be reported for long periods of time. Lack of trust in an adult system when adults committed the offense as well as fear of retaliation of those with power would be debilitating. Young people do not have the capacity to process such traumatic events. They may not be living in an environment where it is safe to do so for many years. We should support the process of healing as and when it is needed by each individual and LD1978 does that.

I hope you will vote Ought To Pass on LD 1978.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine