

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I am Anna Nasset, and I am here to share my personal experience as a victim of stalking. I strongly **urge action to implement a statewide automated victim notification system in Maine**. Although I currently reside out of state, my connection and deep concern for victim safety in Maine remain strong, as I resided here for many years.

As a victim and survivor of stalking for the last fifteen years, the issue of automated victim notification is incredibly important for my safety.

My ordeal involves a stranger and serial stalker, Fraser Rotchford, who has a diagnosis of schizophrenia. He began targeting me in 2008 or 2009. It started when I owned an art gallery in Washington State, and the offender wanted to show his artwork. Unbeknownst to me initially, he also believes we are married, sometimes wants to kill me, and had been watching me for years. He began to torment my life with messaging, following me, and threats.

In 2012, he served 364 days in jail for misdemeanor harassment. By the end of 2013, I closed my beloved business due to his relentless behavior. In 2019, I returned to Washington to testify at his trial. My stalker was found guilty of aggravated felony stalking and felony cyber-stalking and was sentenced to the maximum of 10 years in prison—at the time, one of the longest sentences for stalking in our country's history.

Stalking is a terrifying and psychological crime. The effects of being a victim are a lifelong sentence. Being a victim of crime was a full-time job that began unexpectedly in 2011. It is now a part-time job where I'm always on call—a job I don't get to quit.

Since my offender is incarcerated in Washington state, I relied on their notification system, specifically VINE, to keep me informed. In 2012 a police officer made me aware of VINE. Thankfully almost every agency involved, from police officers to the Department of Corrections (DOC), shared VINE with me.

My experience with VINE has been life changing. I called VINE and spoke with a live person, trained and trauma-informed, who walked me through the system and reassured me. I would be notified immediately if the offender was released on bail. Over the years, VINE has consistently notified me immediately when there has been a change in status.

Despite my great success with VINE, my heart still stops when I receive a notification. However, VINE has allowed me to move past that moment of panic, access the necessary information - and if needed, take action to protect myself.

For victims, notifications can be the difference between life and death. At the end of the day, VINE provides me and crime victims with peace of mind.

In closing, I have considered moving back to Maine again. However, the lack of a statewide victim notification system prevents me from taking that step. I ask today that you please move forward to protect victims and **support a statewide automated victim notification system in Maine.**

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.