

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony on this important bill. My name is Cora Grey and I believe in these bills. There are so many women, children, and men falling into the system that should not be there. They should be getting services provided to find a way out. I believe that if we focus on penalizing the buyer and seller then we will have a better chance of getting help for the exploited as well as able to help rehabilitate the buyer and seller. I was charged with theft trying to maintain my habit while being exploited and that has stopped me from gaining important employment so that I may better the future for my child and me. I feel so strongly about this because there are so many women that are held back. Our dignity is being exploited as well. On top of losing our integrity and morals we now have to relive this story every time we look to gain employment or anything in life our kids our family. It truly affects all people in our circle the shame and guilt never go away. We are reminded daily of the things that held us hostage for so long. I was incarcerated for stealing and Preble Street informed me about courage lives which is a safe house that saved my life. I would still be in exploitation if I was not taken under their arms and shown how to live a healthy life. Taken back in when I slipped again. There are not enough safe houses there are not enough services for survivors. We can go to a rehabilitation center that focuses on the substances but it doesn't truly allow us to heal from the pain and hurt of the past. It's nice to be with a group of women and men that understand what you're going through and don't look at you in pity when you share pieces of your story. Just to be understood. Is so important to the healing process of a survivor. There are many people out there who are not even aware of the amount of exploitation that takes place on the streets of Maine. We don't always share our stories because of the backlash we receive. The misunderstanding eyes that stare into your soul. These bills are so important for the future of all survivors. Together we can take a stand and move forward with helping the one that needs it the most. The one who is slipping in the cracks not getting services and being left to sit in jail while the one who needs the rehabilitation just as much goes free trafficking more people. Both bills LD 1435 and LD 1436 are crucial to the rehabilitation of our future growth and healing. Thank you for hearing me and taking the time to hear my survivor's family as well. Thank you for your votes