

STATE OF MAINE

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DISTRICT II

NEIL MCLEAN
DISTRICT III

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DISTRICT IV



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DISTRICT VII

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MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
SHIRA BURNS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“An Act Removing the Statute of Limitations on Criminal and
Civil Actions Involving Sexual Abuse of Minors”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary**

**Public Hearing Date May 10, 2023
Testimony in Support of LD 1790**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary My name is Shira Burns and I represent the Maine Prosecutors Association and am testifying in support of LD 1790

Every research study out there shows the prevalent rates of delayed disclosure of sexual abuse, specifically when the victim of the crime was a child In many of these cases the abuser is the child’s caregiver or in some way a prevalent part of the child’s life

This proposed legislation eliminates a statute of limitation for any crime against a child that falls under Chapter 11, which are our sexual assault statutes, or Chapter 12, which are our sexual exploitation of minors statutes This is fully reasonable

The Maine Prosecutors Association does not expect a great increase in the number of cases to be prosecuted in the future based on this legislative change However, in the few cases it will impact, the Maine Prosecutors Association believes it is fully worth the statute change to support these survivors and hold their offender accountable

For these reasons, the Maine Prosecutors Association is in support of LD 1790

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