

Testimony of Kerry Bartolini  
In Support of LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of  
Crime  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Jan. 23, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Kerry Bartolini, I am from Biddeford, and I am writing in support of LD 2084 and the need for funding to maintain essential victim services in Maine.

I am alive today because of Caring Unlimited. I am safe today because of Caring Unlimited. My 4 year old son is alive and safe today because of Caring Unlimited.

When I came into contact with a Caring Unlimited Advocate - my husband had been removed from our home with a PFA. I had been abused every way a woman and mother can be abused. I had nothing and was a stranger in this state of Maine. My Advocate helped me pull myself up, gave me the strength to push forward. Resources to move forward. She connected me with Attorney, Jim Amendolara. These two angels helped me navigate the murky waters of constant abuse, both in court and in my daily life. They shepherded me and my son to safety in our daily life as well as through the court system.

I have no doubt - I would not be here if not for Caring Unlimited and these two particular individuals. My journey has been more than two years long, and my Advocate and Attorney Amendolara have guided us the whole way through. My son and I now are not only safe, but happy and thriving. Their efforts on my behalf are the only reason why my child and I get to move forward the way we are.

My face has been split open. My hands have both been broken. Skin ripped off my knees. Elbow torn down to the bone. I have been raped. In front of my child.

Caring Unlimited has built me back up and given me a new road, a new breath, a new season. Resources, legal aid, safety measures.

We need to increase the budget for Caring Unlimited. The most PD calls in Biddeford are for DV, the officers in my case told me that themselves. Every victim deserves an Advocate and a Jim Amendolara. Every victim deserves this chance. Please continue to save lives. These two angels saved mine and my son's.