

Testimony of Felancy Grant
In Support of LD 2084, An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of
Crime
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
January 10, 2024

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

I have been working with Partners for Peace for years. It all began when my 10-year-old daughter and I left my abusive husband and her dad. When we left, we had no place to turn, so we called the helpline, and we were able to stay at the Partners for Peace shelter. Being able to stay close to our former home allowed my daughter to continue to stay enrolled in her school and did not disrupt my employment. We stayed at the shelter, free of charge, while I waited to get approved for low-income housing. Staying at the shelter allowed me to get myself back on my feet and to be able to provide for my daughter. If we had not been able to stay at the shelter, we would have had to stay with my abusive husband or we might have been homeless, neither of which was a safe option for me and my daughter.

While staying at the shelter, I worked with a legal advocate, and they helped me to obtain a lawyer. The lawyer represented me with my Protection from Abuse Order and later she started the divorce proceedings, free of charge. This was a huge financial savings as we were taking the steps to live a life free of abuse.

I have attended the weekly support group meetings since I started staying at the shelter. I still attend the weekly support meetings to support the other people, to show them that I have been there, that I understand what they are going through, and that there is hope. I now have a career that supports us financially and my daughter and I now have a place to call home.