

Testimony of Taina Thompson  
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 Taina Thompson. 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 experienced extreme violence and abuse and didn't know where to turn for help. I was referred to Partners for Peace but was hesitant to reach out because I didn't know how they would be able to help. Once I reached out to the helpline, I was surprised at how many resources they had available and how helpful the staff was in not only providing support but also ensuring that I was able to find a safe place to live first at shelter then transitional housing. I received financial support for vehicle repairs, which allowed me to not only be more independent but also allowed me to gain employment. I wouldn't have been able to get back on my feet without this assistance.

I worked with a Partners For Peace legal advocate for assistance in filing a protection order on my and my child's behalf. Not only did they help me while I completed the forms, but they also accompanied me to court and connected me with an attorney who would represent me.

Participating in weekly support group has been incredibly helpful, providing a safe space to share my experiences and get support from others by knowing I'm not alone. It helped identify the abuse I had been through and provided pathways to move forward in a healthy way.

Knowing other survivors and talking with other resilient people has given me strength, confidence and empowered me to take chances and move forward.

I feel lucky for the services that I continue to receive from Partners for Peace. If not for their assistance, I would have been homeless while pregnant or returned to my abuser because I did not have a safe place to be. Partners For Peace and the resources they provide saved my life.