

## STATE OF MAINE

KATHERYN SLATTERY  
DISTRICT I

R. CHRISTOPHER ALMY  
DISTRICT V

JAQUELINE SARTORIS  
DISTRICT II

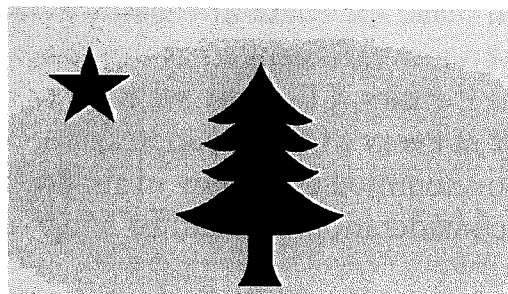
NATASHA IRVING  
DISTRICT VI

NEIL MCLEAN  
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ROBERT GRANGER  
DISTRICT VII

MAEGHAN MALONEY  
DISTRICT IV

TODD R. COLLINS  
DISTRICT VIII



### MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

February 29, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Sachs, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Services and Criminal Justice and Public Safety: My name is Maeghan Maloney I am the District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties and the President of the Maine Prosecutors Association. I am here today in support of funding required for LD 2129, An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement, be included in the Supplemental Budget.

Thirty two states and Washington D.C. have enacted legislation requiring the creation of sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) kit tracking systems, but Maine has not. LD 2129 will change that. The summer of 2023, in partnership with the Maine State Police Crime Lab, MECASA was awarded STOP grant funds to pilot a kit tracking system in Penobscot and Kennebec Counties. The Kit Tracking Pilot Project has two primary objectives: 1) to implement a kit tracking system and 2) to create a plan to inventory all kits currently in police department storage statewide. The Project Advisory Committee has spent numerous hours researching kit tracking systems used in other states, and will soon be purchasing a system with the STOP grant funds. The Kit Tracking Pilot Project will conclude in September 2024, so LD 2129 is critical for ensuring the sustainability of kit tracking procedures. We have secured grant funding for many of these costs, there remains only one piece that presently needs state funding: Forensic Chemist II position. The lab needs a chemist in order to be ready to test all the additional kits that they expect they will receive with the new tracking system. These are kits that should be tested with or without a kit tracking system but the tracking increases the likelihood of the kits being sent to the lab.

No substantive information is given by the tracking system. The victim can enter the tracking number into the computer to see the location of his or her kit, but will not be given the results. This prevents any concerns about hacking.

The tracking system will make the chain of custody evidence more reliable. It will also lessen the burden on law enforcement as they are already required to track evidence and this will make it easier. Currently we have to have every officer who touches the evidence testify at every trial and suppression hearing. The Maine Chiefs of Police association submitted testimony in support of LD 2129.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maeghan Maloney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Maeghan Maloney  
District Attorney