

SUPPORT FOR LD 586

“An Act to Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders”

Senator Smith, Representative Jones, and Committee Members,

I am speaking with you to express my support for LD 586: *“An Act to Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders.”*

In May 2024, I was granted a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order. The judge instructed the defendant to avoid the areas where I reside, work, or frequent without a valid reason. Despite this, the defendant, who lives 30 minutes away and is retired, would frequently drive by my home at a slow rate of speed, almost coming to a stop, and then turning around at a nearby neighbor's driveway, to repeat the process. This occurred approximately every three days for months. I reported these incidents to the local police numerous times, but I was consistently told that the defendant had the right to be on a public road, and no action would be taken by the police or the District Attorney's office. Eventually, I was able to bring the defendant back to court, where the judge found him guilty of several violations of the PFA, including driving by my home. It should not have taken going back to court to keep him from consistently monitoring me.

If enacted, this law would empower judges to better protect Maine victims from ongoing harassment and hopefully police departments would be responsive if LD 586 were to be an available option in protection orders, when needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Candis Veilleux

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