



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 3, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Drew Gattine presenting*  
**LD 666, An Act to Prevent Domestic Violence by Providing  
Adequate Funding Support for Court-ordered Certified Domestic  
Violence Intervention Programs**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and colleagues on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Representative Drew Gattine and I represent House District 126, which includes portions of Westbrook, Scarborough and Saco. I am proud to stand before you today as the sponsor of **LD 666, An Act to Prevent Domestic Violence by Providing Adequate Funding Support for Court-ordered Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs**.

This legislation seeks \$2.5 million in annual funding to support Maine's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP). This investment is not just a matter of financial necessity; it is a smart, cost-effective investment in the safety, well-being and future of Maine families.

Our state's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs are grounded in a shared, evidence-based curriculum that is used across the state and recognized in Maine statute as the gold standard for intervention. Staff at these programs work hard and collaboratively to help individuals understand and change harmful behaviors, break cycles of violence, and prevent future harm. They have proven to be successful; however, these programs are at risk because of a lack of essential funding.

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC), the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), Maine's CDVIPs, the regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers and other community partners have worked together to create a cohesive network that offers non-carceral alternatives that hold offenders accountable and result in better outcomes for survivors and impacted families. The strength of this collaboration cannot be overstated. It is unique in the nation. We have created something that works, but these programs have historically relied almost exclusively on participant fees, and without proper and continued investment, we risk losing them.

I am proud to have been part of the initial effort several legislative sessions ago that provided the small amount of funds that have supported the statewide coordination of the CDVIP network by MCEDV and partial reimbursement of reduced fees for indigent participants. This early support helped lay the foundation for the successes we are seeing today. However, we are at a critical juncture. The programs are appropriately receiving significantly more criminal court referrals than was the case 10 years ago. However, the programs are now facing very real risks to their ability to continue providing this essential intervention. Without sustainable state funding, this network is jeopardized and the progress we've made in ensuring that those who commit domestic violence are connected to the appropriate, evidence-based and community-based intervention will continue to be undermined. This will have an overall effect of reducing victim safety and well-being.

This funding is necessary to ensure the existence and long-term sustainability of Maine's statewide Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs. The \$2.5 million annually will stabilize existing programs and ensure all communities across Maine have access to this necessary intervention.

We know that when we work together, we can create real change. The partnership between MDOC, MCEDV, local programs and our regional domestic violence resource centers has been instrumental in the success of our intervention efforts. It is crucial that we support these efforts to ensure that Maine remains a leader in effective, evidence-based domestic violence intervention.

I urge you to support LD 666, which is vital to ensuring that the Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs can continue to serve Maine communities and save lives.

Thank you for your time, your attention and your commitment to supporting the safety of all Mainers.