

Testimony of Stacy Theriault
In Support of LD 875, An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
March 19, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Stacy Theriault, I live in Aroostook County, and I am writing to share why support for this critical funding is so important.

Hope and Justice Project doesn't receive the adequate funding. There is no way they would be able to help those who are in need of their service. Many are mothers with children and the elderly who are at most vulnerable to domestic violence. So many families would be affected if they could no longer provide services.

The death rate would probably be higher since they are forced to stay in an unsafe environment. In 2014 my friend and coworker, Amy, was tragically killed by her partner. She had decided to leave to the relationship. I often think about if she would know there was services out there for domestic violence maybe she would still be alive today. After her homicide, Hope and Justice Project came to our place of work to speak with us about the grief and loss that some of us felt. They helped us process and we asked many questions about domestic violence. Because of these meetings with Hope and Justice Project staff, I wanted to do more for victims of domestic violence. I began to volunteer my time to collecting items needed for the organization to aid in their cost of maintaining their shelters and meeting the needs of the victims they serve. If hope and Justice Project don't receive the adequate funding, how are the staff supposed to get paid decent wages? They are working with very slim staffing and rely on volunteers and the donations they receive from the community.

Please don't cut or decrease their funding. If anything they need is an increase funding.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

Concerned citizen,

Stacy Theriault