

Testimony In Support of LD 875,
An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
March 19, 2025

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representatives Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my testimony is in strong support of LD 875. My name is Maurice 'Bud' Martin. Professionally, I hold a BS degree in Community Health Education, a masters in Ed Leadership and Policy, and a PhD in Behavioral Science. I started my academic career as a health education teacher, then served as associate director for the office of school health education. I then worked as director of a program working with at risk students in NC. I worked as a data analyst in the division of unintentional injury prevention at the CDC in Atlanta followed by 25 years of teaching Public Health at both graduate and undergraduate levels with my last 6 years as the division chair for Community Health Ed, Recreation and Rehabilitation Services at UMaine Farmington. I am no stranger to the academics of domestic abuse and have spent a lifetime in prevention education.

In my capacity as professor, teaching emerging health promotion professionals, I have encouraged 100s of students to attend legislative hearings and voice their strong evidence based – real life experiences either in favor or opposition to bills they felt strongly about. I did this because I believe in the process and think all citizens should have access and contribute to the process. It is important to witness the scrutiny and discernment each bill rightfully undergoes before it becomes law. But today I don't come to you in any professional capacity. Today I am a grieving brother and uncle of a sister and niece who were senselessly murdered in their driveway by their own mentally unstable husband and father at 10 Crawford Ave in Bath this past fall.

My sister Lisa Bailey suffered years of abuse. Finally, with the encouragement of friends and family and with support from local law enforcement she got the courage to finally leave a terrible situation. With her mom, my mom, in her last days struggling with cancer, Lisa who did not drive had planned to visit. Daughter Jenny was driving her. As the two were leaving they were shot dead by Mike Bailey who then took his own life. On that day, three lives were tragically lost. Damage to the community and family still reverberates. Instead of a nice visit from her youngest daughter and grandchild. My mom got to see me and my surviving siblings with the news that her beloved baby and grandchild had been killed. Sharing the news with my frail mom was the worst experience of my life.

My sister's story was textbook chronic domestic abuse. She sought help from law enforcement. She filed all the appropriate paperwork, complained on several occasions leading up to her death. She complied with the advice of professionals. But somehow the plexus of resources and

networks currently available failed her and her family. I know I speak for all who have faced such tragedy when I say there must be more that can be done to provide resources and prevent future incidents such as we as a community.

In closing, I tell you not a day goes by that I do not ask myself what anyone could have done differently to prevent such a tragedy. Where is the weakest link in the network? What must be strengthened to ensure no family goes through an experience like ours in the future. I believe in the power of legislation and plead with this committee to do all it can to promote sensible policy that provides; 1) step by step counsel to those in crisis of domestic abuse 2) encouragement for friends and family of victims to be involved 3) containment of abusers and their weapons, and 4) community level prevention education. A step in the right direction is to support LD 875. It will provide additional protection for people facing domestic abuse and their community.

Thank you.