



Aroostook County  
Sheriff's Office

Peter A. Johnson, Sheriff  
Erica L. Pelletier, Chief Deputy

Patrol

Transportation

Corrections

Civil Process

Testimony of Sheriff Peter A. Johnson  
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 14, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sheriff Peter Johnson with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and I am writing on behalf of Hope and Justice Project, serving Aroostook County, to share why support for this critical funding is so important.

I want to express my unwavering support for the Hope and Justice Project and the vital work they do in our community to combat domestic violence. Their commitment to providing shelter, resources, and advocacy for survivors is not only commendable but essential in fostering a safe and supportive environment for those in need.

Domestic violence is an issue that affects countless individuals and families, transcending all socioeconomic, racial, and cultural boundaries. The impact of such trauma can be devastating, and it is crucial that survivors have access to the necessary resources to heal and rebuild their lives. The Hope and Justice Project plays a pivotal role in offering these resources, including safe housing, advocacy, legal assistance, and educational programs.

The bravery shown by the survivors who come to their agency seeking help is a testament to their strength and resilience. The Hope and Justice's dedication to empowering these individuals, providing them with the tools they need to reclaim their lives, is nothing short of inspiring. By facilitating educational groups, workshops, advocacy, and outreach programs, they are not only addressing the immediate needs of survivors but also working tirelessly to raise awareness and prevent future instances of domestic violence.

I would also like to acknowledge the challenges faced by the Hope and Justice Project, particularly in terms of funding and resources. It is crucial that we continue to advocate for increased support for organizations like the Hope and Justice Project, which are on the front lines of this important issue. I encourage policymakers to recognize the significance of their work and to contribute in whatever ways they can.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to creating a safer community for all. Together, we can work towards a future where domestic violence is no longer tolerated and where every individual can live free from fear and harm.

*FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS SINCE 1839*

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