

Testimony of Chris Hayes
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 Chris Hayes. I am from Aroostook County and I am writing to share why support for this critical funding is so important.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence. This vital piece of legislation will provide much needed resources and support to individuals affected by domestic violence, ensuring they have access to safe housing, legal assistance, counseling, and other necessary services to recover and rebuild their lives.

As a Chief of Police in Aroostook County, I have witnessed the devastating effects domestic violence has on individuals and families. The need for support services is critical. Victims often face barriers to escaping abusive situations, including financial insecurity, lack of safe housing, and limited access to mental health resources. The Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence directly addresses these challenges by allocating necessary funds to shelters, counseling programs, legal services, and emergency financial assistance.

By ensuring that victims of domestic violence are not left without the support they need during their most vulnerable moments, this act represents an important step toward fostering a more compassionate and supportive society. In law enforcement we can only offer so much support. Following our initial intervention with victims, typically within the first 48 hours, we depend on the availability of essential services to provide continued support to victims as they navigate the aftermath of mental and physical abuse. The resources provided through this program will not only help victims rebuild their lives but also send a strong message that our community stands against domestic violence and will work to protect those who are affected.

I support this initiative and encourage all lawmakers to prioritize its passage. The funding and resources outlined in this bill are essential to empowering victims of domestic violence and providing them with the opportunity for a brighter future.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Chris Hayes
Chief of Police, Presque Isle, ME