

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

I am the Chief of Police in Madawaska. I have served Madawaska PD for 24 years. I have had several opportunities to work with the Hope and Justice Project. I feel the HJP is an extremely beneficial program to have in our community. Not only do they provide unwavering support for victims of domestic violence but they are also an incredible resource both for victims and for law enforcement officials

I can remember on so many occasions, over the years, where the HJP has helped victims with finding safe housing, assistance with obtaining protection from abuse orders, getting funds to victims in need, and just giving emotional support when needed. Domestic Violence is a real thing We see it all the time I take comfort in knowing that when I am dealing a victim of domestic violence, they will be supported from the time they walk out the police department doors through the next several months as they journey through the tiresome and drawn out court process. I know that victims become discouraged and sometimes feel like giving up after months of court proceedings. The dedicated advocates always, and I mean always, help in any capacity they can.

As a police officer in Madawaska, I have always had a great relationship with advocates of the HJP and I honestly can say that they have made my work easier, but most importantly, I feel confident that a victim of a crime that I am investigating will be well taken care of.

Sincerely,
Jamie L. Pelletier
Chief of Police
Madawaska Police Department