

Testimony In Support of LD 875

Good morning, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Brooke Hamar and I am testifying in desperate support of LD 875.

Sunday October 6, around 9am I got on Facebook to scroll. The first thing I saw was a press release from Sagadahoc County Sheriff's office for a "Shelter in place" for Bath. I quickly skimmed the comment section as I have family in Bath, to read that a mother and 13 yr old daughter had been shot and killed. At 9:23 I texted my cousin who has a son that age to make sure they were "ok". She called me right away to say that a neighbor of our Aunt Lisa that lived at 10 Crawford drive, had reached out to her stating that they believed Mike Bailey, our Aunt's Husband, had lost it and shot Lisa and their daughter, Jennie! Also, Jennie's Best friend could not reach any of them by phone. This immediately made me physically sick.

From 9:30am to 10:30am all we heard and saw on the media and news outlets was speculation that a mother and daughter were dead and the suspect was on the loose or dead in the local cemetery or baseball field. During this time I felt in my gut it was indeed my beautiful Aunt and Cousin and that I needed to let family know before they too saw the media circus. I first called my Dad to tell him as my Mom was currently taking care of my Nana (her Mother) in her end stages of cancer. He went to tell my Mom who then had to act as though nothing was wrong to her mother as she herself was breaking inside. I then called another Aunt who said she would let the others know. My Nana had 6 children.

I felt like this played out forever as we weren't getting any real answers until finally a Detective "confirmed" without confirming that it was our beautiful girls. Then around Noon the Detective went to my one Aunt's house, who lives in Brunswick, to give the official word..... those words broke our family forever. Devastating! As I said my Nana had 6 children, one being a son. She loved all her kids but that son was the man of her family. He held that special place. He drove from Starks Maine to Rockport (1hr 45 minutes) I'm sure sick to his stomach to tell his Mom his baby sister and niece had been brutally murdered in the street for their neighbors to see and by the man that was supposed to love them the most. So my uncle surrounded by 3 of his sisters stood at my dying Nanas side to break her already weak heart. What a devastating thing to have to do.

October 6, will forever haunt my dreams, my heart will never heal and the toll this stress has taken on me physically is great. 2 weeks to the day and 2 hrs earlier in the morning then her daughter was murdered, my nana finally passed away at the Sussman House from a long battle with cancer and most certainly a broken heart. distinguished members, it is my belief that these senseless murders we're 100% preventable and this is why I am here to not only share my family's story but to support LD875. Thank you.