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To: Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:  
Re: LD496, March 26, 2025  
From: Daniel Kinney

Sen. Beebe-Center, Rep. Hasenfus & Members of the Committee: My name is Dan Kinney and I am here today to testify in favor of the passage of LD 496. I drove over from Vermont to testify and be with my friend Tammy Lacher Scully and her family who have been searching for their loved one, Graham Lacher, since he disappeared from Bangor in June of 2022.

Tammy and I met while I was a college student at Unity College in the early 80's. She ran the college Student Center and I was a work study student. We became friends and I would go to her and her husband's property where they were building a house, helping with construction and enjoying their company. Tammy had a son and was pregnant with Graham at the time. Our friendship grew and we became trusted friends. Sometimes I babysat the boys. You could say I have known Graham since his birth.

After I graduated from college, I found work with the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, mountain division in Newry Maine. One of my responsibilities was responding to calls from the Maine Warden Service or the Maine State Police when there was a lost hiker or a missing person in the western Maine area. At the time we considered it part of our mission, to offer aid to those in need. This was an unpaid volunteer response.

I recall from my 19 years working for Outward Bound and helping with search and rescue with the warden service, the sense of urgency to get "boots on the ground" in what is known as the "Golden Hour". If we could get a team into the area the subject was last known to be within a short time period, the chances of finding them were much improved. Most of these lost or injured people were hikers or boaters, mostly tourists with an occasional lost hunter. My point is, if we can garner such a quick response for these folks, why not for any citizen of the great state of Maine?

We lost the Golden Hour with Graham. Those of us that love him will not give up hope that he can be found, hopefully alive somewhere under the radar. As a friend of this family, a father and a grandfather myself, I can only imagine the pain they've gone through for nearly three years now. Let's pass this bill so no other Maine family has to go through what Tammy and her family has had to endure.

Issuing an immediate Silver Alert for a vulnerable person should already be the law. Since it's not, I respectfully ask for a unanimous 'ought to pass' vote on LD 496. Pass it for Graham, pass it for those who will be in this painful position next and pass it now.

Respectfully,

Daniel Kinney