



# Waterville Police Department

10 COLBY STREET, WATERVILLE, ME 04901-6699

Tel. (207) 680-4700 - Fax (207) 680-4717

**WILLIAM BONNEY - CHIEF OF POLICE**



Major Joshua Woods  
Commander - Patrol

Major Jason Longley  
Commander - Support Services

## POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

LD 882 An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress  
Management Peer Support

Presented to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

As more and more is learned about the effects of the job on first responders mental health, new best practices are coming to the front. Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support is one of the best tools available to Officers seeking support for traumatic events. The average individual will experience 2-3 critical or traumatic incidents during their lifetime. However, law enforcement personnel will experience 168-170 critical or traumatic incidents. The amount and types of trauma that officers receive is not easy for the average individual to comprehend. This is why seeking support in a CISM setting is beneficial to Officers.

I have known Officers who have refused to participate in a CISM exercise for fear of it not being confidential and it being potentially used against them in the future. There are already enough barriers in place that cause Officers not to seek help for the trauma of the job and this is an opportunity to remove one of those barriers.

For that reason, I am here in support of LD 882 An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support

Major Joshua Woods

Waterville PD