



Stacy Brenner  
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner introducing*  
**LD 385, An Act to Protect Communications by Alleged Victims  
Regarding Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sexual  
Misconduct, Cyberbullying or Discrimination from Litigation**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

April 14, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary committee. My name is Stacy Brenner, and I represent Gorham and most of Scarborough in the Maine Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 385, An Act to Protect Communications by Alleged Victims Regarding Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Cyberbullying or Discrimination from Litigation**— a bill designed to protect survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination from being silenced through retaliatory defamation lawsuits.

This bill is modeled on California's AB 933, which passed with unanimous bipartisan support in 2023 and is now being adapted by states across the country. The message behind it is simple and powerful: people who speak the truth about their own experiences — especially experiences of harm — should not face legal threats for doing so.

In the wake of the #MeToo movement, many survivors found the courage to come forward. But too often, that courage has been met with legal intimidation: defamation threats used not to correct falsehoods, but to suppress the truth. These lawsuits — often frivolous in nature — are designed to exhaust, isolate, and silence survivors. That's not justice. That's retaliation.

This bill provides a legal defense for survivors who speak out in good faith. It creates whistleblower-style protections that ensure truth-telling is not met with punishment. And if a survivor is dragged into a baseless lawsuit, the bill allows for reasonable attorneys' fees and damages — because survivors shouldn't go broke defending their own truth.

This bill does not protect malicious or knowingly false accusations. It is carefully written to balance the right to speak out with the need for accountability. And it's already been vetted by national legal organizations, including the ACLU and the National Women's Law Center.

Maine has the opportunity to join a growing number of states leading on this issue. We can send a message that we believe survivors, we support transparency, and we will not allow the legal system to be used as a weapon against the truth.



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I respectfully urge the committee's support for this bill. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. The bill author, Victoria Burke, will join us today to testify as well, and I'd encourage you to direct your questions to her.

Thank you.