

Testimony Submitted to:

Maine Judiciary Committee

By: Tricia Grant, Survivor Leader/CEO, Just Love Worldwide

**In Support of:**

**LD1427, An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions  
Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking**

April 14, 2025

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Tricia Grant, and I'm here today to speak in support of LD 1427, An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking. I'm speaking on behalf of myself and Just Love Worldwide. I want to express my deep gratitude to Representative Henderson for sponsoring this crucial piece of legislation.

At the age of 15, right here in Maine and throughout New England, I fell victim to trafficking. It took me 16 years just to realize that what was done to me had a name and to understand that it wasn't my fault. Another year and a half passed before I felt able to tell anyone. For 17 and a half years, I lived in silence, weighed down by fear and shame. The epiphany came when I realized the business that had trafficked me, masquerading as a place hiring exotic dancers, was still operational, likely victimizing others. That realization compelled me to act.

When Homeland Security began investigating my case, they found one of my traffickers. But considering his advanced age and situation, and the challenges associated with proving coercion—especially with threats

involving my son—justice seemed elusive. How could I recount and prove these horrors from my past when the pressure to remain silent for so long meant evidence had evaporated with time? I didn't pursue personal justice because I didn't believe it existed for me. Instead, I dedicated my energy toward ensuring others wouldn't have to endure what I did.

Today, my mission involves educating communities to recognize the signs of trafficking and creating robust policies focused on victim protection and addressing the underlying demand for trafficking. I'm also deeply committed to journeying alongside other survivors in their healing process.

I am privileged to stand before you today because, for many survivors, the battle for justice seems insurmountable. The suffering in silence remains, compounded by an overwhelming struggle to navigate everyday challenges.

While legislation can't erase our suffering, Maine's commitment to addressing the impacts of trafficking is commendable. LD 1427 is a significant step in the right direction, signaling a shift in how we support survivors and seek justice.

For these reasons, I urge you to support LD 1427. Maine has the opportunity to lead by example in providing hope and pathways to justice for survivors. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to answer any questions you might have.

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