

Testimony Submitted 4/14/2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

RE: An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking – L.D. 1427

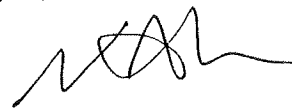
My Name is Nate Walsh and I am a resident of Freeport. I am also an Assistant District Attorney, proudly serving Prosecutorial District III, who has worked specifically as a Human Trafficking prosecutor for the last decade. I would like to thank you for allowing me to offer my testimony in support of L.D. 1427.

I am offering my support of the bill before you and urge you to vote that it ought to pass. In my experience working with victims of human trafficking, the trauma inflicted on the victims can't be understated. From the fear of retaliation to the sense of shame, the impact of trafficking can create substantial barriers for people to come forward to share their experiences. Sex trafficking is a form of sexual violence typically perpetrated against some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. As a result, there are additional obstacles for these victims to overcome to seek justice. When a victim finally goes to law enforcement, years may have passed.

Unless there were to be an exception to the general Statute of Limitations, codified in 17-A M.R.S. §8, the State would have just six years to bring a case forward. This legislature has previously expanded this time to 20 years for the felony crimes of Unlawful Sexual Contact or Gross Sexual Assault. It would follow that same logic to also include the crime of Aggravated Sex Trafficking.

This bill would expand access to justice for victims of trafficking.

Thank you,



Nathan R. Walsh
Assistant District Attorney
Prosecutorial District III