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Testimony of Rep. Julie McCabe in support of
**LD 1425, An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier
Trauma Recovery Services**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and my esteemed colleagues on the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Julie McCabe and I am honored to represent House District 93, which includes part of Lewiston.

I am humbled to stand before you to testify in support of **LD 1425, An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services**.

I want to first take a moment to acknowledge the 18 lives lost and the many others who were grievously wounded. I also want to recognize the families and survivors who are forever changed by the devastation on October 25th, 2023.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my immense and incalculable gratitude for every person who acted so bravely that night and in the days that followed: the first responders, local and state police, emergency room nurses and doctors and many others. You were there for us in the darkest moment Lewiston has ever experienced.

In the days after the shooting, returning to my high school in downtown Lewiston, I honestly felt shell-shocked and I wondered in the back of my mind if we would ever be the same. If the numbness would dissipate. Some of our students were directly impacted and lost family members in the attack. Others had prior experience losing family members to community gun violence and we attempted to tend to their lingering wounds as well. Words seemed insufficient at the time but over the course of two weeks, we held space for each other and there were even smiles and moments of joy.

There is, of course, no prescribed timeline for healing, nor should there be. For the past two years, after seemingly opening up overnight, the Maine Resiliency Center continues to create space for ongoing healing. I want to personally thank the incredible staff at the Maine Resiliency Center who met the moment and continue to provide healing resources from weekly youth groups, to inclusive American Sign Language classes, to trauma-informed therapy. I am in awe of the staff who show up everyday enabling others to find hope and a path forward.

We still need the Maine Resiliency Center and the support it provides our community. There are lives that count on the moments of connection born there and the camaraderie that is fostered and the healing that is nurtured.

Let us continue to honor the hard and invaluable work of this organization and in doing so, support our fellow community members who rely on these services each day.