



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
**LD 2136, "An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to
Federal Funding Cuts"**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
February 4, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Tim Nangle. I proudly represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 2136, "An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts."

This bill is a direct response to an unexpected federal funding delay that is disrupting services for survivors of human trafficking here in Maine. For more than a decade, Preble Street's Anti-Trafficking Services program has relied on funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. That funding expired last fall, and the next round of federal funds has been significantly delayed, leaving a gap in services at a time when survivors are actively seeking help.

As a result, the largest anti-trafficking service provider in our state has had to begin waitlisting survivors. These are individuals who have experienced severe trauma and exploitation and are trying to find safety and stability. A delay in support at this stage can have serious consequences.

The assistance provided through this program is practical and flexible, helping people with housing, food, medical and mental health care, legal needs, and relocation when necessary. In many cases, meeting these basic needs is what allows someone to leave an unsafe situation and begin rebuilding their life.

LD 2136 provides a one-year bridge to replace the lost federal funding, allowing these services to continue while the federal process catches up. This is not a new initiative, but a short-term step to prevent a proven program from being forced to scale back at the worst possible time.

More broadly, this bill reflects a new and troubling reality: Maine can no longer assume that even longstanding, congressionally approved federal funding will be delivered on time — or at all. When the federal government is derelict in its responsibility to follow through on commitments that communities depend on, the burden falls on states and on vulnerable people who are already in crisis.

I want to emphasize again that, in this case, *survivors of trafficking are being waitlisted* for help because funding was held up with no explanation. When that kind of instability puts people at risk, we have a responsibility to step in and prevent harmful and unacceptable gaps in care.



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LD 2136 is a targeted, time-sensitive measure to make sure survivors of trafficking are not turned away simply because of an administrative failure at the federal level. Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Nangle

State Senator, Senate District 26

Representing Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook