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COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY OF**

**RANDALL A. LIBERTY, COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**In Support of**

**LD 782 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Corrections for Certified  
Batterer Intervention Programming**

**Before the  
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

**April 9, 2021**

Senator Deschambault and Representative Warren and other distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Randall Liberty, Commissioner for the Maine Department of Corrections providing testimony in support of proposed amendments to LD 782.

In January of this year the MDOC and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) stood before you (virtually, of course) to discuss our shared vision to end domestic violence.

The DOC's contribution to this is through the implementation of the Certified Batterers Intervention Program. In 2019, the MDOC expanded our on-going partnership with MCEDV as part of the 2017 law. As this committee knows, originally just a contractual agreement, MCEDV's role was to assist with the implementation of plans for using the monies appropriated under the 2017 law for the CBIP program. Over the two years however, a shared commitment to honoring the experiences of the victims while ending domestic violence through education has shifted into a highly collaborative, solution-focused alliance.

An example of this is the amendments presented for this bill, which were created in collaboration with MCEDV and focus on three specific things:

- Clears up terminology, changing the term "batterer intervention program" to "domestic violence intervention program;"
- Identifies that a domestic violence intervention program is not a form of medical or psychiatric treatment by giving it a separate paragraph in the statute describing probation conditions; and
- Creates mechanisms for information sharing that are victim centered.

We hope you agree that this bill will improve the Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Program and ensure peace of mind for the victim.

I am happy to make myself and members of my team available for the work session.

Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Corrections