
Testimony of Andrea Mancuso
In Support of LD 1822: "An Act to Enact the Online Data Privacy Act"
Monday, May 05, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am writing on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)¹ in support of LD 1822, "An Act to Enact the Online Data Privacy."

Weak consumer privacy protections impact us all but are particularly dangerous for the safety efforts of victims of domestic abuse and violence. Survivors often require the most privacy when they are being targeted by the person choosing to use abuse and violence. And so, strengthening privacy protections necessarily strengthens the safety of survivors and their children in our state. Of the bills before you for consideration on this issue, only LD 1822 truly represents a step forward.

To be able to keep a wide range of information confidential or private is often essential to the planning that survivors of domestic abuse engage in to try to keep themselves, and often their children, safe. On the other end of the spectrum, people who perpetrate domestic abuse and violence become quite skilled at identifying and exploiting mechanisms to access and misuse information to further perpetrate abuse. Those who perpetrate domestic abuse are often highly familiar with the personal details of their victim, and so they are more able to be successful in their attempts to violate their victim's privacy and access information that they shouldn't, information that could further jeopardize their victim's physical, emotional or financial wellbeing.

Importantly, LD 1822 would give all Maine people, including survivors, the right to have transparent information about what has been collected and who that information has been shared with. It also prohibits the sharing of certain information that, if shared, would be ripe for misuse by the person harming them, importantly including information about their location. LD 1822 does these things without creating an opportunity for a survivor to unknowingly waive their rights to not have this information shared by doing something we all do mostly on auto-pilot in today's digital age – check the box to accept lengthy terms and conditions to access a service. This likelihood to inadvertently waive your information

¹ MCEDV serves and supports a membership of Maine's eight regional domestic violence resource centers as well as two culturally specific service providers. Together, these programs served more than 12,000 victims of domestic violence in Maine last year.

protection rights is a critically important defect in the other proposals the Committee is considering alongside LD 1822.

In 2019, MCEDV supported and celebrated the enactment of An Act to Protect the Privacy of Online Consumer Information. When companies sell customer data, that data ends up in the hands of those not authorized to possess it. When it lands in the hands of an abuser, it can and does cripple a survivor's safety plan and leaves the survivor unsuspectingly vulnerable. We encourage the Committee to not undermine the data protections that were created in 2019. LDs 1088 and 1284 would work to make more information about vulnerable survivors available for sale – giving abusive people a mechanism to access intimate details about their victim's everyday lives – where they're now living, restaurants they frequent, and the stores they shop at.

Understanding the intersection between safety of survivors of domestic abuse and violence and their ability to keep certain information confidential, there are several Maine statutes that attempt to support survivors' needs for privacy and confidentiality in various ways. These are important tools that survivors in our state use every day. As this Committee reviews data privacy proposals before you this session, and understanding all the ways that using technology is essential to functioning in our communities every day, we encourage you to recognize LD 1822 as the approach that best addresses the needs of survivors for transparent and categorical privacy around their online data.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any additional information from our network would be helpful to your work on these issues.

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