

**Testimony of Scott A. Young, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Defense,
Veterans and Emergency Management**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL
AFFAIRS**

**“Resolve, Directing a Review of Crucial Needs and Lapses in Responding to and
Preventing Sexual Trauma in the Maine National Guard”**

March 15, 2021

Good Morning Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Scott Young and I am the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. I am here today to testify in support of LD 625, Resolve, Directing a Review of Crucial Needs and Lapses in Responding to and Preventing Sexual Trauma in the Maine National Guard.

The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management is committed to preventing sexual violence in the Maine National Guard. Since the Resolve 2013, Chapter 66 report was completed our program has grown considerably on the federal side and we have continued to work diligently to address all updates/changes as they come in. We have a robust program; however, the 54 states and territories are all unique and we are working continuously to refine our program to meet the unique needs of Maine victims.

Should the resolve pass, we will graciously review and report back on the status of implementation of the recommendations made in our previous report to your committee. We also look forward to the opportunity to working with the committee relative to needs and gaps which may require legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important subject. In the Maine National Guard, our people are our most valuable resource. I will answer any questions you may have and I or members of our staff will be available for work sessions on this bill.