

**LD 888: An Act to Ensure Ongoing Services for Victims of Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence
Testimony Information & Templates**

Thank you for agreeing to provide written testimony in support of LD 888.

About the Bill:

In the last legislative session, Maine's first increase in funding for sexual assault and domestic violence service providers in more than two decades was approved. However, those funds (referred to as Funds for Healthy Maine or FHM) were only appropriated for two years. This June, that FHM funding will run out, and our state's prevention and victim advocacy services will see a \$5 million deficit. LD 888: An Act to Ensure Ongoing Services for Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence would ensure continued, vital funding for domestic and sexual violence services across the state.

In the Central Maine area, we received \$140,000—more than 15% of our annual budget—from FHM. This funding has allowed us to enhance the organizational planning and staffing of our prevention education team. As a result, our school-based prevention education participation has increased and our community-based prevention education participation has increased as well. That means many more school-aged children (and even more community members) have been able to learn about ways we, as individuals and a community, can work together to end interpersonal violence in Maine. Additionally, we were able to provide much needed Mental Health resources for families who have utilized the Children's Advocacy Center of Kennebec & Somerset Counties by providing onsite consultation with a mental health professional.

Without funding to maintain our current team, our ability to provide prevention education and onsite mental health support services in our Central Maine communities—especially services targeted towards youth—will be severely and directly impacted... just as we anticipate an increase in service needs as we come out of isolation from the pandemic. LD 888 would help to prevent gaps in prevention and response services across the state and right here in Central Maine.

Submitting Testimony:

The hearing for LD 888 is scheduled for March 30, 2021. Testimony must be submitted (as a PDF or Word document) to jordan@mescasa.org no later than noon (12pm EST) **on Monday, March 29**. The following information is required when submitting testimony:

- Your name
- Your town of residence (or the organization you represent)
- Your preferred email address

IMPORTANT: Your name and your town of residence (or the organization you represent), as specified by you on this form, will accompany the publishing of your testimony online.

**LD 888: An Act to Ensure Ongoing Services for Victims of Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence
Testimony Information & Templates**

Sample Format for Testimony:

DATE

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of Health and Human Services
Committee:

My name is XXXXXXXXX and I am a resident of XXXXXX (OR I am submitting testimony on
behalf of Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center of Kennebec & Somerset Counties).

I am submitting testimony in support of LD 888, An Act to Ensure Ongoing Services for
Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

[Your testimony about why sexual assault prevention and support services are important.]

Thank you for your support!