LD 1092: An Act to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the State

While often seen as a problem of larger states, CSEC happens all over the country, including here in Maine. In fact, all Maine counties have reported suspicions or confirmation of CSEC. Maine's sexual assault support centers and children's advocacy centers have seen over 100 cases of CSEC since 2020.

CSEC refers to the sexual exploitation of children for the financial benefit of others.

Goal: To expand services in Maine for current and potential victims of CSEC

This Bill Will...	This is Important Because...
Develop a program through DHHS for preventing and responding to CSEC.	Without a dedicated program, DHHS misses on opportunities for improved training, policy improvements, case support, and expanded access to therapuetic foster care for trafficked kids - a supportive and cost effective housing method.
Fund two new CSEC Coordinators	These staff coordinate response to trafficked kids and help others identify CSEC. CSEC is a statewide problem, but Maine only has one CSEC coordinator located in Cumberland County.
Fund three high risk case managers	These case managers would be funded to work with kids at high risk of trafficking as well as those confirmed (a current gap) and expend more necessary resources on CSEC cases than is currently possible.
Fund one part-time statewide coordinator	This role would provide critical coordination of services statewide and evaluate continued need.

"If these services had been in place when I was 15, my life would have looked very different. The 13-year-old I'm now supporting, needs these services now to start her healing journey."
-CSEC Survivor

Annual cost of this bill?
$597,500.
The impact?
Priceless.