



Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Lisa Margulies, I serve as Vice President of Public Affairs for Maine at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and I am here to testify in opposition to LD 951.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care in approximately 10,000 visits per year in Maine at four health centers located in Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, and Topsham, as well as online via telehealth. People turn to us for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, disease testing and treatment, cancer screenings, gender-affirming care, abortion care, as well as a variety of primary and behavioral health care services.

As a mission driven health care provider, we fundamentally believe everyone should be able to access affordable, high quality sexual and reproductive health care in their communities, no matter where they live or how much money they make, and we advocate for policies that help make this vision a reality. All people deserve to access comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion and gender-affirming care, free from shame, stigma, and intimidation. We see everyone who comes to us regardless of ability to pay, and in a typical year, we provide more than \$1.2 million in free and discounted care to our communities in Maine. For many, we are their only access to the health care system.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England does not often submit testimony on bills related to campaign finance even though we do raise and spend money on campaigns through our PAC, Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund PAC. This PAC exists precisely because of the endless political attacks aimed at ending our ability to provide health care, forcing us to engage in defensive work.

We are firm believers in campaign finance transparency, disclosure, and accountability. We are also deeply concerned that the requirements in LD 951 go too far and threaten the personal safety of our contributors and supporters.

The stated goal of LD 951 appears to be to force disclosure of dark money in Maine so that the public can see who is funding election spending. While this is a laudable goal, it fails to acknowledge that this "transparency" is happening on the backs of



donors who may be contributing to organizations subject to threats from opponents. For those donors, the disclosures in LD 951 subject them to potential harassment and targeting. Those risks to privacy and safety have the very real consequence of chilling their speech in possible violation of the First Amendment.

Planned Parenthood's donors can face very real dangers from abortion opponents who in the past have used not only verbal threats, but also physical confrontation with those with whom they disagree. Forcing donors who choose to support Planned Parenthood generally to disclose their information if that contribution is then used for electoral work is not only dangerous but also deters First Amendment free speech.

Unfortunately, we live in a climate with a demonstrated rise in political targeting and violence against our organization. Given this, we need to be ever vigilant when seeking to balance the laudable goals of increased campaign finance spending transparency with the rights of donors to freely, and safely, exercise their First Amendment.

LD 951 will do nothing less than put Planned Parenthood donors in a terrible dilemma: agree to a public disclosure which may make them targets for harassment or worse, or suppress their right to participate in an election by "opting out" of electoral activity.

We urge you to reconsider your support of LD 951 and to protect vulnerable donors by voting "ought not to pass."