



April 19, 2023

Representative Meyer, Senator Baldacci and members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is Kelli McCannell, and I am the Executive Director with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), an education and advocacy organization led by grandmothers and elders dedicated to advancing reproductive health, rights and justice for present and future generations. GRR! was founded in Maine in 2013 and currently engages over 500 Maine activists in our work. I'm here to testify on behalf of GRR! in support of **LD1478: An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services**. As elders, GRR!s understand deeply the importance of access to family planning services. Too many generations have been subject to misinformation, lack of information, and patriarchal limitations on sexual and reproductive healthcare.

In the wake of national bans and criminalization, it feels impossible for folks to stay up to date on the legality of family planning services. When pregnant people are forced to navigate an intentionally confusing system to receive care, each day matters. Maternal mortality rates in the US healthcare system are shockingly high and rising. Our organization is committed to ending the criminalization of pregnancy and all of its outcomes, as well as uplifting the Reproductive Justice movement's principles of providing all parents with the *power and resources* to raise children in safe, healthy & sustainable environments. It is from this values-based framework that we call on you to support LD1478.

When families are informed with options and access to services, health and economic security increase not only for the individuals, but for society as well. GRR! urges the committee to vote in support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kelli McCannell & GRR!s across Maine