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Maine Family Planning
Testimony in Support

LD 1412, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

April 24, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, Maine Family Planning is testifying today in support of LD 1412, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.

Maine Family Planning was founded in 1971. That was the year before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that unmarried people had a right to contraception (*Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 1972). It was before the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974 guaranteed women the right to open a bank account or line of credit without a co-signer. And it was before Carol Moseley-Braun and Barbara Mikulski wore pants on the Senate floor in 1993, just thirty years ago, creating an uproar and changing the rules of decorum.

Today in 2023, the hard-won rights of women and minorities are under attack, and it is an important time to consider how states can best protect these rights. LD 1412 would give us a chance to enshrine equality protections in our State Constitution.

We hope that you will vote unanimously Ought to Pass and allow this important piece of legislation to continue moving forward to a vote in the House and Senate and ultimately a vote from the people of Maine.

Thank you,

Mareisa Weil
Vice President of Development & Community Engagement