

**25+ Years of *Independent Practice* as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine**

March 17, 2023

Senator Donna Bailey

Representative Anne Perry

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

I am a citizen from South Portland and work as a nurse practitioner in primary care in the greater Portland area. I am writing to you on behalf of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association in support of LD 935 'An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance.' We appreciate Representative Moonen and the co-sponsors for presenting this bill.

We support LD 935 which will remove barriers that patients encounter when attempting to receive timely abortion services through their private insurer. The Maine Nurse Practitioner Association believes every woman has the right to make reproductive choices, access factual, unbiased information about reproductive choices, and those with limited means should have access to financial resources for their reproductive choices.

Many of you are aware that most private insurance plans come with a hefty deductible that must be met before many health care services can be rendered. The ability to control your own personal medical decisions, including whether to end a pregnancy, is a fundamental human right. This limitation can restrict patient access to abortion which can increase their risk for poor health outcomes. I have seen patients wait to terminate a pregnancy due to cost and instead of terminating at 6 or 8 weeks they have to wait until they can afford the medical procedure or medications. This can increase health risk, mental health burden, and impact their ability to perform their responsibilities at work and home.

We believe that private insurance recipients should be afforded the opportunity to access these services without having to meet high deductible costs first. This will provide cost savings to the insurance companies as the cost of abortions occurring later in pregnancy, routine pregnancies, and complicated pregnancies would be much higher.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill as we urge you to vote in favor of LD 935. Please feel free to contact me at the number below for more information or if you wish to discuss further.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brown, FNP-C

Tel # 207-621-0313

[mainenpassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mainenpassociation@gmail.com)

Legislative Committee Member

Maine Nurse Practitioner Association