

Aspen Ruhlin
Mabel Wadsworth Center
LD 227

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LD 227 Public Testimony
An Act Regarding Health Care in the State

First, I would like to thank the chairs Senator Bailey and Representative Perry, along with the rest of the members of the Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services Committee. My name is Aspen Ruhlin, and I am speaking as a representative of Mabel Wadsworth Center. Our center is a feminist sexual and reproductive health center that has been providing care to our community for 40 years, with services that now range from abortion and prenatal care to STI testing and contraception to gender-affirming hormone therapy. We are more familiar than most with the necessity and safety of this care, and so today we ask that you vote in support of LD 227.

Across the country, we have seen both reproductive care, particularly abortion care, and gender-affirming access attacked and limited. These examples of care have been shown again and again to be safe and medically necessary for those seeking and accessing them. In Maine, we have demonstrated that we trust both providers and those seeking care to make the decisions that are best for them. We have passed laws that improve transgender rights and the full spectrum of reproductive care access, from abortion care to contraception to fertility care.

This bill strengthens protections for providers of reproductive and gender-affirming care by assuring that other states with bans can not overreach and target Maine providers. Along with protecting trusted Maine healthcare providers, LD 227 will help prevent the waste of Maine's resources from hostile litigation from other states and protect Mainers' private health records from being shared with law enforcement agencies in states where gender-affirming care and abortion care are banned.

This legislation just makes sense. Maine providers should be allowed to do their jobs without worrying about attacks on their licensing or threats to patient privacy from other states. All patients deserve access to the care they know is right for them, and providers deserve to provide that care without fear of unwarranted attacks. Mabel Wadsworth Center urges you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 227. Thank you.