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

February 12, 2025

**Testimony in support of LD 210:** An Act making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the Expenditures of State Government and changing certain provisions of the law necessary to the proper operations of State Government for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, & June 30, 2027 to include funds for coverage of family planning and reproductive services.

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs,

My name is Kathleen Forti-Gallant and I live in Stetson, work in Bangor and am writing on behalf of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA), as well as a citizen and health care provider in Maine. We urge you to support including funds to have Medicaid/Mainecare cover family planning services to provide access to these desperately needed services in our state.

Family planning is not just birth control pills, it is a source for many primary care services, disease detection/treatment, wellness examinations, prevention, cancer detection, counseling, & funds cannot be used for pregnancy termination. Family planning services reduce risks for mothers & children and are provided at a lower cost than emergency rooms, etc.

There is a health care provider shortage in Maine and in a rural state such as ours, access to care is an issue. Family planning centers provide services that are not available elsewhere. Family planning center provide necessary services to women, children, & men at multiple sites.

Barriers to reproductive care have increased for low income families & Healthy People 2030 targets included increasing family planning services. A 2024 informational bulletin by the Deputy Administrator & Director of the Center for Medicaid & CHIP services wrote that 'CMS is committed to ensuring that all Medicaid beneficiaries have access to & coverage of family planning services.'

MNPA urges your support of LD 210 to include family planning services coverage. Thank-you for your time & consideration. Please feel free to call us with questions # 802-0667.

Kathleen Forti-Gallant

Family Nurse Practitioner MNPA legislative committee

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