

Delene Perley  
Portland/MUUSAN  
LD 143

To: Health and Human Services Committee  
Re: LD 143  
From: Delene Perley, Portland ME  
Date: March 1, 2025

This legislation supports Planned Parenthood and other places in Maine that support women's health. My story is from the distant past but relates. It is important that states have legislation that supports women's rights and reproductive needs.

When I graduated from the University of Michigan in 1960, my fiancé and I were planning on getting married in August. I went to the Planned Parenthood there in Ann Arbor and got a diaphragm and instructions for its use.

After our marriage we moved to New Haven, CT where my husband was going to attend graduate school at Yale. I was the wage-earner, as I got a job teaching in a nearby high school.

Guess what? Connecticut had a law that it was illegal to use contraception in that state. Duh. Of course, they weren't in our bedroom and wouldn't know. And for some reason I was able to buy the necessary cream in the drug store. Just not use it!

Well needless to say, we remained childless until after he got his degree. Little did I know at the time that schools would deny you a teaching job if you were pregnant, which is what happened in two years when we were back in Michigan. The federal law regarding not discriminating against a person because of gender wasn't passed for another seven years. I lost my teaching job in the middle of the year in that Michigan high school. Talk about a shock!

State laws today are necessary to protect so many different people while they seek medical care from their doctors. Recommend LD 143 ought to pass! We must support all our residents.