

Robyn Jucius
Trenton, ME
LD 143

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I'm Robyn, I live in Trenton, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 143.

When I was in my 20s I was a regular patient at a qualified providers of family planning services. Through family planning services I was able to obtain affordable birth control and have regular pap smears. Through pap smears I had HPV that was detected early was able to get it treated and followed appropriately.

Funding family planning improves public health and economic outcomes. Mainers face barriers to care, including financial and logistical challenges of accessing a provider, challenges that are especially difficult in more rural areas of Maine. Family planning providers often the first and only medical provider patients see in a year, making the family planning care network a critical safety net for the tens of thousands of patients who access services from the providers each year.

The services Maine's family planning providers offer have for decades been undervalued and providers are now navigating increasing costs of delivering care, growing demand for free and reduced care, insufficient and stagnant reimbursement rates, and ongoing political attacks.

Conclusion

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 143. Thank you.