

Daniel Amory
Portland
LD 143

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Daniel Amory and I live in Portland. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 143, An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services", on behalf of myself and my wife Joan Amory

We have supported Planned Parenthood for decades financially because we know that it provides a wide range of critical health care for Maine women and fertility services for men. It and other family planning services served over 31,000 clients in 2023, with millions of dollars in free and reduced care (70% of all patients!) ensuring that they all receive the care they need regardless of income.

We all know that Maine's health care system is in crisis, with rural hospitals and even major facilities like St Mary's in Lewiston closing or reducing the scope of care they can provide. Threatened cuts in Medicaid would upend MaineCare and lead to closure of many facilities. We must maintain Maine's family planning network, with its 61 service sites and mobile health unit, to ensure critical care continues for women throughout Maine with testing and treatment for STI, birth control, cancer screening, gynecological exams and care, vaccinations, and behavioral health and well person care.

We are old enough to have lost friends to breast, ovarian and other cancers that afflict women and could have been prevented through proper screening. We have also seen how unplanned pregnancies upend lives, and known young women who desperately needed behavioral counseling. We all know that vaccinations can protect against many preventable diseases. Please prevent unnecessary loss, pain and suffering and support the women of Maine by enacting LD 143.

Although we support a woman's right to choose, please note that none of the funding provided under LD 143 will be used to provide abortions. Let's not let the culture wars interfere with what should be everyone's common goal - ensuring our daughters, sisters and wives get the health care they need and deserve.

We urge you to support LD 143, and thank you for your service to the State.