



Grandmothers For Reproductive Rights

PO Box 204
Portland, ME 04112

info@grrnow.org
www.grrnow.org

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Cait Vaughan and I am here today to testify on behalf of my employer, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), and the more than 600 Maine residents we represent, in support of LD 143. We are a grassroots organization that amplifies the voices and status of grandmothers and elders who work intergenerationally, through grassroots education, advocacy, and community-centered initiatives to secure access to sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice for present and future generations.

Maine's family planning network provides essential health care services in a low barrier setting delivered by expert providers. This network forms a critical safety net that bolsters public health statewide, especially through serving some of Maine's most economically vulnerable community members. A core focus of GRR!'s work is to educate and inform younger Mainers about their rights around sexual and reproductive healthcare, as well as direct them toward legitimate providers—specifically to family planning clinics, school-based health centers, and federally qualified health centers—as pivotal resource sites for receiving comprehensive, evidence-based and expert care. If this network is not robustly funded, our entire state suffers.

With rising rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and a growing HIV and Hepatitis C cluster in Bangor, Maine is in greater need of the services offered by the family planning network. They are rising to the challenges of these times, and yet their work has been flat funded for more than a decade. A prosperous Maine is one where people can exert control over their reproductive lives through easily accessing the form/s of contraception best suited for their circumstances; where all can encounter deeply experienced providers offering trauma-informed pap smears, wellness exams, and cancer screenings; where transgender individuals can anticipate high quality care in a welcoming environment; and where no one is left behind due to their financial situation or unable to easily visit a provider because of their zip code.

In this moment, we need to be expanding the availability of the family planning network's services. If we do not make this investment in our public health infrastructure, we risk weakening the physical and economic health and well-being of our state.

We urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 143.

Thank you for your time,

Caitlin Vaughan

Cait Vaughan, Director of Programs & Outreach

Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!) works, through education and advocacy, to secure access to sexual & reproductive health, rights & justice for present & future generations.