

March 10, 2025

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the committee,

I am an old Mainer, living now on the land I grew up on. My children, in a common story, left Maine for jobs in a city. My oldest is self-sufficient, has a career pathway back to Maine, with a goal to build on our family land here. Happy story, right? Not yet. In order for her to return, she needs the reassurance that she will always be able to get medical care here. You see, my quiet, gentle, loving daughter is transgender. She needs to know that live-affirming, high quality care will be available, even in more rural parts of Maine. Maine Family Planning provides necessary medical care for trans adults. I urge you to welcome all Mainers home by ensuring funding for medical care that sustains them, supporting LD 143.

Her transition has been a journey filled with challenges--and also filled with joy, with caring friends and professionals able to see her for who she is and celebrate her return to her true self. For several adult years of her life, I simply enjoyed meeting my daughter, watching the happiness return to her face, the shift in her features (and wow, does she look like her grandmother!). Now I pray nightly for her safety in a crazy world where some have chosen her and others like her as their scapegoats, while they ignore the real problems of our times. It's a terrible thing to fear for your child.

Maine has always taken care of her own, has understood that personal liberty is core to our freedom, with a "let and let live" bedrock understanding of how good community flourishes. We need to continue that freedom and let the current wave of bullying, hate-filled rhetoric of the right flow past us, while we hold true to values of freedom to be who we are, not who others try to make us be. Family Planning of Maine implements those core beliefs in their work every day--and should be supported by all of us via a state commitment to funding necessary care statewide. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Colpitts

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Buxton, Maine

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