

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I support LD 143 and ask that you also vote to make our reproductive rights genuinely accessible through the appropriation of adequate funding. Ongoing stable funding allows for more planning and coordination of services. As Maine's maternal health resources are [declining](#), many people needing reproductive health care have fewer options and will go without basic services. The United States ranks a dismal [99th in the world](#) in women's health, largely because we have so few protections for maternal health, and Black women face the worst consequences, enduring a [true crisis](#). Reproductive health care includes preventative care, screenings, advice about contraception and access to various methods, as well as pregnancy and abortion care. This care is time consuming and often costly, creating barriers for so many in Maine.

I fully support raising taxes on our wealthiest residents to ensure that all of us enjoy basic human rights, including access to reproductive health care. I appreciate that the fund could receive additional support through grants or donations but that we will maintain some core shared commitment to ensuring healthcare for all, since that is truly the purpose of Government and we need to ensure that we are not creating pseudo-rights that are actually only available to those of us who live in urban areas, those of us who can afford private insurance or medical care, or those of us with adequate transportation and time off from work to access limited available care .

Sincerely,

Kimberly Simmons, PhD