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LD 143

I am writing in support of LD 143. As a parent of twin toddlers, I have experienced firsthand how critical Maine's family planning network is. There is literally nothing more pro-life than properly funding our family planning healthcare providers so that Mainers can make the best and safest decisions when it comes to family planning.

LD 143, sponsored by Sen. Pierce and co-sponsored by all of Democratic leadership, would provide ongoing funding to Maine's family planning network, including Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and Maine Family Planning. It's the most important piece of legislation for us because it will protect our ability to provide services in this hostile national landscape.

Maine's family planning network is a critical safety net for tens of thousands of patients each and every year, with over 31,000 patients receiving essential care like STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, and birth control appointments in 2023. Maine family planning providers offer millions of dollars in free and reduced care every year—and provide care to anyone who needs it, regardless of ability to pay, with 70% of patients qualifying for free or reduced cost care.

LD 143 would safeguard Maine's family planning network and ensure our state's most vulnerable people can access the essential health care they need. It would provide \$6.18 million to Maine's critical family planning care network that consists of 61 service sites and a mobile health unit and serves more than 31,000 patients annually. Services supported would include testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, birth control, cancer screenings, routine gynecological exams and care and well person care, vaccinations, gender-affirming care, and behavioral health services. LD 143 would not fund abortion care.

These funds would enable Maine's family planning providers to keep their doors open for anyone who needs care and weather the impending storm at the federal level.