

LD 143 Testimonial

To the Joint Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Bunny Falkie, and I'm here today to represent my voice of support for Bill 143 An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services. If passed, this bill will provide critical funding to a crucial service provided throughout Maine. This investment is not just about individual healthcare options: it's about ensuring that all Mainers, regardless of income, location, and health status, can receive proper care.

Our community's public health starts with access.

As Reproductive Health Care finds itself under attack Nationwide, we find ourselves at a decision point—by providing the proper allocation of funding we can better provide reproductive healthcare, preventative screenings, low-barrier interventions, and support for chronic health conditions to those who need it most. While Family Planning as a service gets a rap as only being pertinent during very specific portions of an individual's life, such as when deciding when or when not to start a family, they are also critical in providing a spread of services that may otherwise be unavailable or at capacity elsewhere. Cancer screenings, vasectomies, STI treatment, and HIV prevention remain evergreen offerings, among other staple services. In regards to HIV prevention, I am looking at my home of Penobscot County when I underscore the necessity of communal response to communal health issues.

As it stands, Maine Family Planning already hosts service hubs across the state of Maine. Further legitimized funding can allow for the fuller and wider provision of those services, even in traditionally underserved communities.

No one should have to choose between figuring out transportation across the state of Maine to receive basic health care in a timely manner—or worse, to go without it.

Reproductive Health Care IS Health Care, please help us build a healthier Maine. Vote yes on 143 An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services

Thank you very much.