



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

**LD 143, An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family
Planning Services**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Monday, March 10, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 143, An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 143.

During this session, one of our legislative priorities is advocating on all levels to protect reproductive health care autonomy. This means financially supporting clinicians working at the four Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, eighteen Maine Family Planning (MFP) health centers, thirty-one Federally Qualified Health Centers, and eight school-based health centers. It is crucial to protect and maintain access to the sexual and reproductive

health care services provided at these facilities. This network serves more than 31,000 patients annually, 70% of whom qualify for free or reduced-cost care.

This preventative healthcare ultimately saves a lot of healthcare dollars and has been shown to improve a state's educational achievement. Reliable access to contraception is associated with not only substantial reductions in unplanned pregnancies and the high costs associated with them but also significant increases in educational attainment and economic mobility for families. Every dollar invested in family planning saves \$4.83 by preventing unintended pregnancies, reproductive cancers, and STIs.¹ And, remember, those would be MaineCare expenses for 70% of these cases.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 143e.

Thank you,

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<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/publicly-supported-FP-services-US-2016#impact-of-publicly-supported-family-planning-services>.