

March 10, 2025

**Testimony in support of LD 143: An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services**

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

My name is Dorothy O'Keefe, and I am a primary care nurse practitioner working in a rural Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Penobscot County.

Family planning clinics and associated services often serve as a gateway for women's healthcare needs including birth control, reproductive health, and cervical cancer screening as a part of their health and wellness mission. They provide care to thousands of Maine citizens in areas with few resources.

In Penobscot and surrounding counties, it can take several weeks and sometimes up to several months for a referral for women's care as more facilities reduce services (such as Northern Light Inland Hospital) or no longer accept MaineCare for payment.

Passing LD143 provides access to reproductive health care for women and men in **all** areas of Maine. LD143 does not fund abortions. With this information in mind, I kindly ask for your support to pass this bill.

Thank you for reading my testimony. Feel free to contact me, if needed, at [dottie.okeefe@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.okeefe@gmail.com) or 207-239-8138.

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