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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 143
An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by
Funding Family Planning Services
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
March 10, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23 in the Legislature, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I submit this testimony to express my strong support of LD 143, “An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services.”

Bodily autonomy and access to health care are core principles here in Maine. But every day, more and more Americans are having the right to make decisions about their own bodies in their private lives stripped away by a federal government and judicial system that is more interested in controlling people's bodies than it is in protecting their rights. In Maine, we value the right to choose what happens to one's body and access to vital health care services. LD 143 would further these values by ensuring the delivery of family planning services. The *Dobbs v. Jackson* Supreme Court decision in 2022 set the stage for states across the country to strip women of their right to bodily autonomy and made it clear that women in this country could not count on the federal government to ensure their continued access to essential medical care, not just with regard to abortion but family planning and reproductive health services more generally. And the federal government has since delivered on its stated intent to make family planning services harder to access across the country - since the *Dobbs*, family planning clinics across the nation have had to shut their doors as they continue to face bans on specific types of care and cuts in federal and state funding. This has resulted in more and more people losing access to contraception and wellness care.[1] This makes it more important than ever for the state to fund and maintain access to family planning services. It is our duty as legislators to do what we can to ensure that Mainers are secure in their continued access to essential health care services. LD 143 will help to do that.

In the face of federal uncertainties and the erosion of access to family planning services, this funding will ensure that Mainers do not have to wonder if they will have access to essential health care services. I urge you to pass this important bill and further cement Mainers' bodily autonomy and access to health care.

[1] <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/06/22/us/abortion-clinics-dobbs-roe-wade.html>;
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/06/the-first-national-data-on-birth-control-post-dobbs-is-here-and-the-news-is-not-good/>

More info on the bill:

<https://mainemorningstar.com/2025/03/10/reproductive-health-providers-call-for-more-state-funding-as-federal-threats-loom/>