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Senator Peggy Rotundo  
Representative Drew Gattine  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
c/o Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 3, 2025

RE: ADDENDUM to Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 210, "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

As you deliberate on the biennial budget, we want to add an additional request; that you incorporate MaineCare coverage for certain members of Maine's immigrant communities into your final committee amendment.

Senator Talbot Ross is introducing a bill, LR 196, to partially close the MaineCare coverage gap for adult immigrants. Her bill will allow more Mainers who are excluded from coverage due to their immigration status to access the necessary prescription drugs and life-saving medical care they need to ensure a healthier future for all.

The significant challenges facing Maine's immigrant communities are not unknown to us. Through our WIC office in Hancock & Washington County, Maine Family Planning supports many migrant farmworkers in having access to nutritious food. We know that it is critical to support people through every step of their reproductive journey — and that includes having access to healthy sustenance. Furthermore, a person who has had their green card for less than five years, is seeking asylum, is undocumented or whose status is uncertain and lacks insurance coverage, may face significant barriers to comprehensive contraceptive counseling, sexually transmitted infection or STI tests and treatment, or cancer screenings. Every person should have access to the education and tools they need to determine if and when to become pregnant. Ensuring these and other essential health services to all Mainers, regardless of immigration status, is part of a strong and effective public health system. We cannot achieve health equity as long as we maintain categories of those deserving and undeserving of care based only on a person's immigration status.

While we know that LR 196 seeks to provide only specific life-saving medical care and prescription drug coverage, we want to go on the record that we support not only these important expansions, but full MaineCare coverage.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Olivia Pennington  
Director of Advocacy & Community Engagement  
Maine Family Planning