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Senator Henry Ingwerson
Representative Michele Meyer
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 28, 2025

RE: Testimony in support of LD1277, "An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities"

Dear Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

Maine Family Planning urges your support for LD 1277, "An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities"

Maine Family Planning provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care to teens and adults at 19 locations statewide. Our mission is to ensure that all people have access to high-quality, culturally relevant and affordable sexual and reproductive health care services, comprehensive sexual health education, and the right to control their sexual and reproductive lives. This includes providing gender affirming care along with treatment for perimenopause and menopause, both of which can involve prescribed testosterone.

Testosterone is a safe and effective medical treatment for many health conditions. We feel strongly that there simply isn't a medical purpose for tracking testosterone prescriptions in the PMP. This arbitrary designation only creates yet another barrier for trans people accessing basic healthcare and the clinicians trying to provide it. Unlike the substances with a high risk of overdose or life-threatening misuse such as opioids, stimulants, benzodiazepines, morphine, or sedatives, prescription testosterone is safe and non-addictive, and routine medical care effectively prevents misuse.

Furthermore, requiring testosterone prescriptions to be reported to the PMP creates a risk that patient healthcare data will be weaponized by law enforcement from hostile states and the federal government. Data on testosterone could be used to identify transgender people and providers of transgender healthcare. As you well know, PMP data includes the patient's personal identifying information, protected health information, and identifies the prescriber and dispenser. Adding to these risks, the PMP is not required to comply with HIPAA. We have already seen the federal government drastically expanding access to personal data in ways we previously thought unimaginable (like through DOGE access to treasury and SSA records.) It is not a stretch to think the federal government will continue to use existing data systems to achieve their political goals.

With all this in mind, we urge you to vote “ought to pass” on this important legislation to further protect the privacy of our patients and the safety of our clinicians.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Olivia Pennington
Director of Advocacy & Community Engagement
Maine Family Planning