



Testimony in Support

LD 2212, "An Act Making Supplemental 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, 2026 And June 30, 2027"

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Lisa Margulies, I serve as Vice President of Public Affairs for Maine at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE), and I am here to testify in support of LD 2212.

PPNNE provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care to approximately 10,000 patients per year in Maine at four health centers located in Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, and Topsham, in addition to online via telehealth. People turn to us for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, disease testing and treatment, cancer screenings, immunizations, gender-affirming care, abortion care, as well as a spectrum of primary and behavioral health care services. We see everyone who comes to us regardless of ability to pay, and in a typical year, we provide more than \$1.25 million dollars in free and discounted care to our communities in Maine.

As a mission driven health care provider, we fundamentally believe everyone should be able to access affordable, high-quality sexual and reproductive health care in their communities, no matter where they live or how much money they make, and we advocate for policies that help make this vision a reality. All people deserve comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion and gender-affirming care, free from shame, stigma, and intimidation.

PPNNE is often the first and only health care provider a patient sees in a year due to the patient being uninsured or having a low income. We are committed to seeing all patients regardless of their ability to pay, and we are an integral part of the state's safety net. We provide time sensitive care, reserving appointments in the schedule each day for same-day appointments because much of our care begins with addressing an acute need— as a few examples, a patient's birth control prescription is about to expire, they felt a lump in their breast, they are experiencing painful periods, or they are worried they have an infection.

Patients also turn to us for primary care services, such as blood pressure checks, anemia testing, and screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, and thyroid. In addition, we screen patients for mental health, safety, and intimate partner violence, substance use disorders, and other social and mental determinants of health. Because of the unique relationship we have with



our patient population, patients are much more likely to disclose these highly personal health issues to our staff. Patients have a deep level of trust in us because of the high-quality care we provide and the high level of honesty we offer as a sexual and reproductive health care provider.

We are grateful for state leaders' commitment to ensuring all patients can receive the care they need and proud to testify in support of the Governor's proposed budget. In 2025, abortion opponents at the federal level targeted our organization and our partners in several key ways, including: by withholding already-appropriated funding through Title X, the nation's only federal program dedicated to providing family planning and basic preventive care to people who are uninsured, underinsured and have low incomes; and, in H.R. 1, by barring our organizations from being reimbursed through federal dollars for services provided to patients insured by Medicaid.

These attacks have created a multi-million-dollar gap for our organization and jeopardized care for thousands of patients in Maine. 68% of PPNNE's Maine patients in FY 25 receive care subsidized by Title X, and nearly 25% of Maine patients were insured by Medicaid. These attacks have also compounded existing threats to our financial stability, including rising costs to deliver care, ongoing patient demand for free and discounted care, and stagnant and low reimbursement rates, particularly for women's health care services, which have been undervalued and undercompensated for decades.

Let's be clear: these "defund" efforts are a backdoor abortion ban that is intended to eliminate access to care in states like Maine where abortion remains legal. The sad irony here is that neither Title X nor federal Medicaid funding pays for abortion services except in rare exceptions, so the attacks jeopardize life-saving non-abortion services like cancer screenings, wellness checks, immunizations, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

PPNNE has managed to remain open and serve patients across our region, despite 23 Planned Parenthood health centers across the country being forced to close permanently since the H.R. 1 "defund."ⁱⁱ We have continued to welcome Medicaid and Title X patients without interruption to their care, refusing to pass the harm to our patients because we believe every patient deserves care, no matter what. This is not sustainable in the long term. Thankfully, Title X funds were recently restored, although with sizeable cuts. We are also thrilled that the governor's proposal of \$2.25 million dollars in page 56 of Part A would retroactively compensate providers for services offered to Medicaid-insured patients during the period of the H.R. 1 "defund"—care that we and our partner Maine Family Planning have continued to provide without payment.



Sadly, we know that attacks on our patients and their access to care won't stop. As one example, the Republican Study Committee, the conservative caucus of U.S. House Republicans, in January released its roadmap for the 2026 federal budget reconciliation package, including a proposal to make an unconstitutional "defunding" of Planned Parenthood and our partners permanent.ⁱⁱ

As strong as the laws of Maine are in protecting reproductive rights, those rights mean nothing without access to care. For this reason, we applaud this legislature's ongoing policy efforts to ensure patient access, including \$6 million dollars in one-time funding in for family planning services, as well as the governor's proposal to fill gaps created by H.R. 1. Because of your leadership, Maine has remained a beacon of hope for the rest of the country and a safe harbor for all patients.

With these unprecedented assaults on access to care, there are additional opportunities through this supplemental budget to strengthen patient protections into the future:

- *Emergency funding mechanisms:* we urge you to include language that—in addition to the governor's proposal to retroactively compensate providers for Medicaid services—ensures emergency state funding in the event that abortion providers are barred from receiving Medicaid or Title X or these funding streams are diminished or degraded. By guaranteeing that emergency state funds immediately replace federal funds for the period for which they are eliminated, this legislature can safeguard patients and reassure them that they will continue to receive essential health care regardless of the federal landscape.
- *Ongoing family planning funding:* we suggest that you also include ongoing state funding for family planning services starting in the next biennium. This is a smart investment. Publicly funded family planning services represent an almost unparalleled level of return for the public dollar, saving \$7 in Medicaid expenditures for each dollar spent.ⁱⁱⁱ

This legislature has been a fierce champion for our patients, and we are grateful for your fight. We know that through your efforts, Maine will remain a safe harbor for care for all patients, no matter where they live, what their income is, or whether they have insurance. Thank you for all you do to safeguard reproductive rights and access to care in Maine.

ⁱ Kimberlee Kruesi, *Planned Parenthood drops lawsuit against Trump administration's Medicaid cuts*, Associated Press, Feb, 2, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/US/wireStory/planned-parenthood-drops-lawsuit-trump-administrations-medicaid-cuts-129785880>

ⁱⁱ Planned Parenthood Action Fund, *Anti-Abortion Lawmakers Plan to Make Planned Parenthood "Defunding" Permanent*, Jan. 14, 2026, <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/tipsheets/the-quickie-anti-abortion-lawmakers-plan-to-make-planned-parenthood-defunding-permanent>

ⁱⁱⁱ Guttmacher Institute, *Features and Benefits of the Title X Program*, Feb 2025, <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/features-and-benefits-title-x-program>