

Amelia Auner-Montgomery
Waterville
LD 335

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I'm Amelia Auner-Montgomery, I live in Waterville, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 335.

Family planning providers are a critical part of our healthcare safety net in our community. In Waterville, we recently had a health system leave our community. Because of this, I lost all my existing health care providers and waited almost a year for a primary care provider. During this time, I needed a provider who could manage my GYN care, including follow up on mammograms. Maine Family Planning was here for me. I was able to get an appointment immediately and they were able to meet all my immediate needs. I now have a primary care provider, but I am staying with Maine Family Planning for my GYN care because they provide expertise and accessibility and I want them to stay in my community for when my daughter needs their care.

Support for these services is more critical now than ever. Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood are staying true to their mission by continuing to serve patients with Medicaid while not being able to bill those services due to federal restrictions, but this is not a tenable long-term solution and does not reflect the value of the care provided to our communities.

I have experienced first-hand that the safety net is critical for all of us - even those of us who are well-insured and able to advocate for themselves; so much more so for those who do not have these privileges. As Mainers, we must maintain this critical infrastructure so that Mainers can access the family planning care they need when and where they need it.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 335. Thank you.