

Augustin Villarreal
SUGAR LAND TEXAS
LD 335

State funding is not an "extra" expense; it is a necessary replacement for federal Medicaid cuts. Without this \$2.25 million, Maine-based providers face a critical deficit that threatens their ability to keep doors open.

- A Rural Lifeline: In many parts of Maine, family planning clinics are the only accessible healthcare providers. These funds support essential primary care, including:
 - Cervical and breast cancer screenings.
 - STI testing and treatment.
 - Routine vaccinations and wellness exams.
- Economic Security: Access to reproductive healthcare is an economic issue. When Mainers can plan their families, they are better able to complete their education, participate in the workforce, and contribute to the state's economy.
- Investment, Not Just Spending: Remind the committee that every dollar invested in family planning saves the state significantly more in future public health and social service costs.

2. Safeguarding Reproductive Rights

Primary Focus: LD 335 (An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights).

- Medical Judgment vs. Political Mandates: Decisions about healthcare should be made by patients and their licensed medical providers. This bill ensures that physicians can use their professional judgment to provide the best care without fear of criminal prosecution.
- Modernizing Data Privacy: Current laws regarding data collection are often antiquated. This legislation updates those laws to protect the privacy of both patients and providers in a digital age.
- Community Care: By removing barriers to later-in-pregnancy care, Mainers are no longer forced to travel out of state for medical emergencies. They can receive care in their own communities, surrounded by their support systems.
- Maine Values: Protecting reproductive rights is a reflection of Maine's commitment to individual liberty and the right to privacy. It ensures that every Mainer has the same rights regardless of their zip code.