

Lisa Belanger  
North Yarmouth  
LD 335

Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and Members of the HHS Committee.

My name is Lisa Belanger. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and a retired family nurse practitioner. I am in strong support of LD 335 that would serve to help fund and protect women's reproductive rights here in Maine. The impacts of the federal government's abrupt funding slash have already been felt: Maine Family Planning has ended primary care services in Houlton, Ellsworth, and Presque Isle, communities where access to health care was already limited. And since the beginning of 2025, nearly 50 Planned Parenthood–affiliated health centers nationwide have closed.

Maine must step up and step in to fill in the enormous gaps created by the Trump Administration's de-fund. LD 335 ensures baseline funding to offset the most immediate impact of the federal de-fund and guarantees emergency funding in the event of future cuts, limitations, or restrictions. While we have important state laws on the books that protect the right to a full spectrum of reproductive health care, these rights must be met with adequate funding to ensure clinics stay open and Mainers have actual access to these critical services. Thank you for taking this critical step in protecting reproductive rights here in Maine. Your efforts are much appreciated.