

Erica Paul
Portland
LD 335

Erica Paul
Portland, Maine
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Senator Ingwersen, Senator Nangle, and Senator Moore,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Erica Paul and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing today in support of LD 335. As a young woman, I was fortunate to have access to reproductive health services when I needed them. Now, as a woman who has made the decision to be childfree, access to reproductive healthcare remains critical. In addition to my personal experiences, I have loved ones who have lost access to reproductive healthcare as a result of federal cuts to funding.

In 2022, 35,849 people accessed care at these clinics in Maine. People will continue to need access to safe, affordable, and accessible healthcare, especially in our state's rural communities. In this political environment where reproductive rights are under threat at the federal level, establishing LD 335 would protect Mainers' access to necessary reproductive care.

If LD 335 passes, it will ensure that people like me and my loved ones continue to have access to services like STI testing, cancer screenings, and contraception. It will protect our ability to access this care regardless of decisions made at the federal level.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 335. Thank you!