

Committee on Health and Human Services  
Public Hearing: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM  
Cross Building, Room 209

**Testimony by Madison Cook of Belfast, Maine**

**In Support of**

**LD 335, An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights.**

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Representative Michele Meyer, and members of the Committee:

My name is Madison Cook, and I live in Belfast. I am writing in strong support of LD 335.

I am 29 and grew up in Maine. I have personally relied on reproductive healthcare services including Maine Family Planning for birth control and STI testing. For me, and many people I know, these clinics are an essential part of staying healthy.

In Belfast, many of my friends and neighbors are service workers, artists, small business owners, or people with seasonal jobs. Many of us piece together part-time work without consistent insurance. Clinics like Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England provide care that would otherwise be out of reach.

Federal changes under H.R. 1 have cut Medicaid payments to certain providers, affecting not just abortion care but also birth control, cancer screenings, and other routine services. Clinics have reduced services or closed locations. In rural Maine, when a reproductive healthcare clinic closes, there is often nowhere else to go.

Young people disproportionately face transportation challenges, and if clinics close, teens and young adults may have no choice but to continue an unwanted pregnancy, making it harder to stay in school or plan for their future.

LD 335 protects access by allowing Maine to step in and keep clinics open if federal Title X funding is cut. This bill would create a dedicated statewide fund, with \$5 million annually starting in fiscal year 2027–28, and ensure MaineCare patients can continue seeing providers, with state funds covering costs retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Reproductive rights cannot be upheld without ensuring that clinics remain open and accessible to everyone who needs them. For these reasons, **I urge the committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 335** to ensure stability, continuity, and access to essential health care for all Mainers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Madison Cook  
Belfast, Maine