

Joshua Barber
Portland
LD 335

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Joshua Barber, I live in Portland, and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 335.

I have testified before this committee before and am happy to submit my testimony again as a Mainer proud of the investments our State makes in healthcare. Because we had access to family planning care in our community, my family and I are happy and healthy today. My wife was not afforded access to basic reproductive health care as part of her primary care until she moved to Maine. The lack of care available to her without restrictions or privacy concerns meant she could not speak to a medical professional about her gynecological health until well into her 20's. Now we have a beautiful daughter who was born here in Maine, where both mother and child received fantastic care. While the Federal government is actively defunding this important care and restricting providers in any way it can, Maine stands firm in its commitment to our current and future generations.

But there is still a lack of access further from our cities where this healthcare is even more vital. Family planning providers are often the first and only medical provider patients see in a year, making the family planning care network a critical safety net for the tens of thousands of patients who access services from these providers each year. Continuing this funding is an investment in the economic and health outcomes of Mainers and can attract young families like mine to our state in the current climate of uncertainty in other states. Talented young professionals, especially medical professionals, are seeking a place where reproductive health care is valued and protected. Let's give them additional reasons to join us here in Maine by passing LD 335.

Thank you.