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Senator Ingwerwen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I'm Janis Hogan, I live in Belfast, Maine and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 335 - An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights.

Reproductive rights are health care rights. Plain and simple. And these rights are under attack.

The assault on reproductive rights and tying them to funding for family planning services is doing real harm to real people whose only access to health care is through family planning services. This assault must stop. The Maine Legislature must stop this assault by safeguarding reproductive rights in Maine.

I have been a nurse for almost 50 years and for the last 24 years of my career served as a school nurse in a local high school. I can speak to the need for family planning services in our state. Students rely on Maine Family Planning for confidential reproductive health care. Without Maine Family Planning Services, where will students go for confidential birth control or sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing? Without Maine Family Planning, I highly suspect we will have an increase in unintended pregnancies and STI's. Bad for teen health and bad for the state's fiscal budget.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count report, there were 143 teen pregnancies in 2024. Just look at the financial costs and consequences as reported by Fact Forward in 2019.

- Healthcare Costs: Prenatal care can exceed \$5,000, while hospital deliveries range from \$14,000 to \$27,000, with public programs like Medicaid often covering these expenses.
- Long-Term Economic Consequences:
 - Reduced Income: Teen mothers are more likely to live in poverty and rely on public assistance.
 - Educational Impact: Two-thirds of teen mothers never finish high school.
 - Child Outcomes: Children born to teen mothers are more likely to have lower economic attainment as adults, contributing to a \$2.9 billion loss in tax revenue.

For the health of Maine's citizens and especially Maine's youth, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 335 - An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights.

Resources:

<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/8272-young-teen-pregnancy#detailed/2/any/false/1096/any/16827,16828> Retrieved 2/24/2026

<https://www.factforward.org/news/high-costs-teen-pregnancy#:~:text=Teen%20pregnancy%20can%20have%20many%20financial%20consequences:,likely%20to%20be%20placed%20in%20foster%20care>. Retrieved 2/24/2026