

February 25, 2026

To: Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Diane Oltarzewski, 46 Charles Street #2, Belfast ME 04915

Re: LD 335 An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights

In her book *Cultures of Peace*, the sociologist Elise Boulding highlighted the fact that "young people are not partial human beings, humans-in-progress. They are full citizens and members of the human race."

I am writing in favor of LD 335 because I know in my bones and in my heart that a young woman has all the ability, understanding, knowledge of herself and her world that she needs to come to a decision about whether she can welcome a baby, or needs to abort a pregnancy. That was me in my twenties. And that was a time of respect for the dignity and the privacy of a young girl who had made her decision and received the care that she required.

I ask you to accord the same dignity and compassion to young people today seeking care and support at such a challenging time in their lives. Maine Family Planning provides that in abundance, even when they are challenged to go on by the headwinds of hateful legislation and defunding. But they cannot do the impossible, and that is why we desperately need to pass LD 335, to ensure that they can continue to provide the broad range of healthcare services that Maine's citizens need. We must build into our laws and our budgets the funding necessary to sustain these civilized services for our people. A strong state partnership is vital to safeguard against future attacks on access to care at the federal level.

I urge you to pass LD 335 without exception. Thank you for your consideration.