

**Testimony in Support of LD 335, “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services”**

James Myall, Policy Analyst

February 25, 2026

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is James Myall and I’m a policy analyst at the Maine Center for Economic Policy. I’m here to testify in support of LD 335, “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services.” MECEP knows that family planning services and the other health care services offered by family planning providers are an important piece of Maine’s health care landscape, especially for Mainers with low incomes.

Like many organizations, family planning providers in Maine face intense uncertainty about the availability of federal funding. President Trump has already attempted to withhold Title X funding for family planning services and has proposed eliminating the program entirely. Last year’s federal reconciliation bill took away millions of dollars that were being used to provide a wide array of additional services at family planning clinics across the state. These cuts and threatened future cuts put dozens of clinics serving 30,000 Mainers across the state at risk. LD 335 would offset that risk by having the state step in to fund these critical services when Washington leaves Mainers behind.

The family planning providers who would be supported by LD 335 form a safety net for many Mainers with low incomes. Half of the patients at Maine Family Planning and a quarter of those at Planned Parenthood’s Maine clinics are enrolled in MaineCare. More than one fifth at MFP have no insurance at all. In the wake of the federal reconciliation bill, Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services predicts 31,000 MaineCare enrollees will become uninsured,<sup>1</sup> making the presence of clinics like these even more important in the future.

In addition to helping individuals access health care, the funding in LD 335 will be an important investment in a stronger Maine economy. Research shows that access to family planning services and the ability to make informed choices about their reproductive future leads to better economic outcomes for women, including better college graduation rates, more participation in the work force, higher wages, and less likelihood of living in poverty.<sup>2</sup> Reproductive freedom also means better outcomes during pregnancy and birth, resulting in fewer cases of preterm and low-weight births, which can have lifelong health and developmental impacts for children.

In promoting public health, family planning services save taxpayers money over the long term. One study found that for every dollar spent on such services, taxpayers saved \$7 in avoidable costs for treating future conditions like sexually transmitted diseases, cancer, and preterm births.<sup>3</sup> On top of this, Mainers with private insurance plans save indirectly. Investing in preventative care services reduces insurance premiums because it means fewer visits by Mainers to the emergency room and fewer diagnoses of acute conditions which could have been spotted and fixed much earlier at a lower cost.

Funding LD 335 will protect Mainers' health, improve economic conditions for thousands of people across the state, and ultimately save taxpayers money. I urge you to vote "ought to pass."

Thank you, and I'll be happy to take any questions.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Federal Budget Reconciliation Law Now in Effect: Impacts on MaineCare, SNAP & CoverME.gov" *Maine Department of Health and Human Services*. Jul 11, 2025. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/blog/federal-budget-reconciliation-law-now-effect-impacts-mainecare-snap-covermegov-2025-07-11>

<sup>2</sup> Anna Bernstein and Kelly Jones, "THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CONTRACEPTIVE ACCESS: A Review Of The Evidence." *Institute for Women's Policy Research*. [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381\\_Contraception-Access\\_Final.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381_Contraception-Access_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Frost, J. J., Sonfield, A., Zolna, M. R., & Finer, L. B. (2014). "Return on investment: a fuller assessment of the benefits and cost savings of the US publicly funded family planning program." *The Milbank quarterly*, 92(4), 696–749. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.12080>