



Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Advocating the right to quality, affordable
health care for all Mainers.

P.O. Box 2490
Augusta, ME 04338
Telephone: 1-800-965-7476
Fax: 1-888-214-5233
www.mainecahc.org
consumerhealth@mainecahc.org

**Testimony in support:
LD 335, “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services”
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
February 25, 2026**

Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Kate Ende, Policy Director for Consumers for Affordable Health Care. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of LD 335, “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services.”

Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates the right to quality, affordable health care for every person in Maine. As designated by Maine’s Attorney General, CAHC serves as Maine’s Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which operates a toll-free HelpLine. Our HelpLine fields thousands of calls and emails every year from people across Maine who need help obtaining, keeping, using, or fixing problems with private health insurance or with accessing or affording health care services, including primary care and sexual and reproductive health care services. CAHC also serves as the Ombudsman program for Maine’s Medicaid program, MaineCare, and helps people apply for and navigate the enrollment and access to health care services under MaineCare. It is with that background that we provide these comments.

Maine’s family planning providers often are the only source of care for their patients, delivering essential services such as STI testing, cancer screening, gynecological exams, behavioral health services, and even primary care. Without adequate funding, many Mainers will lose access to these critical services, putting the health and well-being of thousands at risk. The urgency of LD 335 cannot be overstated, as family planning providers are facing increasing financial strain. Provisions in H.R. 1 bar Maine Family Planning and Maine’s Planned Parenthood health centers from receiving federal reimbursement for services they provide to MaineCare patients. These providers have been without MaineCare reimbursement since the law was signed last July. Yet they have remained open and continue to provide care to patients regardless of their ability to pay or to be reimbursed. Meanwhile, federal policies threaten to further destabilize access to reproductive healthcare, including threats to Title X, the federal family planning funding program. Furthermore, on the state level, these providers have been flat-funded for over a decade.

Through our HelpLine, we hear from people who have trouble finding a health care provider close by. Uninsured and underinsured Mainers face additional barriers to accessing care. Thousands of Mainers trust and rely on family planning providers to access and afford the medical services they need in their communities.

By passing this bill, the Legislature will ensure that Mainers throughout the state, regardless of their income or insurance, continue to have access to the care they need. We thank you for your time and encourage you to support LD 335, which will bring relief and better health to Maine families and communities.