



2/25/26

## Testimony in Support of LD 335: An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights

Senator Ingwersem, Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kara Kaikini, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition in strong support of LD 335.

A lot of work and many Maine voices have gone into creating and sustaining the statute to protect the full spectrum of reproductive health care. But these written rights do not equate to practice, without funding. LD 335 ensures that essential funding stabilizes and safeguards Maine's statewide network of family planning providers in the face of federal attacks, making these protections reality.

Providers such as Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England are the backbone of Maine's fragile health care system. They deliver reproductive, primary, and behavioral health care to tens of thousands of Mainers each year, many of whom rely on MaineCare or have no insurance at all. For many rural patients, these clinics are the first and sometimes only point of care.

As rural birthing hospitals close and maternity services decline across the state, maintaining this infrastructure is even more urgent. Family planning clinics provide contraception, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, prenatal referrals, gender affirming care, and often early lactation support and postpartum follow up. These services are deeply interconnected. When clinics lose funding, access to comprehensive, timely care collapses, particularly in rural communities.

LD 335 offsets the immediate harm caused by federal Medicaid "defund" provisions and creates an emergency funding mechanism to prevent future disruptions. It also establishes ongoing state investment in family planning services. Since H.R. 1 took effect, providers in Maine have delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars in uncompensated care to MaineCare patients rather than turn them away. **That model is not sustainable.**

The MSBC is a coalition that includes partners like Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Our coalition's mission is to empower and nurture Maine families throughout their human milk feeding journeys. This mission becomes much harder to fulfill if families lose access to contraception, prenatal care, postpartum follow up, or primary

care services that surround and support infant feeding. Lactation outcomes are directly tied to access to comprehensive reproductive and primary care, particularly for low income and rural families.

Our vision is for healthy beginnings, supported families, and thriving communities in Maine. We must fund the systems that make those outcomes possible. I urge you to support LD335, ensuring Mainers can access care when they need it, regardless of federal politics.

Thank you,

Kara Kaikini, MS, IBCLC  
Executive Director, Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition