

February 25, 2026

Testimony in Opposition to LD 335
An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Nathan Gould. I am from Winterport. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to LD 335, "An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights."

I oppose the continued legislative weaponization and political maneuvering that pits our state against our Nation's executive government along party lines. In his farewell address, President George Washington warned us of the "baneful effects of the spirit of party." This is one of many bills in which we see these effects reified.

I oppose the misuse of taxpayer money. Our state is heavily taxed, and now we are threatened with yet another avenue to spend our money. The arguments in favor of this bill might be from empathy, but the pattern shown by our State's government and many charities is one of mismanagement, as evidenced by documentation failure and improper payments for children's autism care, and outright fraud, as shown by the nonprofits like Gateway Community Services who were alleged to be siphoning money donated to the survivors of the Lewiston Shooting. Let individuals who want to donate to these family planning organizations decide if they want to take the risk. Let the large businesses and nonprofits of this state choose to donate their money. Do not force the taxpayers to be swindled and defrauded. I have no confidence in our State government.

I oppose the destruction of life. Almighty God has created each life, and no life is to be taken just because it doesn't fit into our narrow definition of when a family

should begin, how large it should be, or if we want to avoid the natural consequences of our carnal relations. Yet we are not in an evangelical theocracy, nor are we obedient to basic, objective truths and human decency, so this State permits abortion. This issue is so divisive, so divided are we on what is basic truth, that taxpayer money should not fund it. You must not ignore the half of the our State that does not want abortion and are morally opposed to paying for it. “My body, my choice” morphs into “you **will** accept my choice, and you will **foot the bill.**” I am not permitted to be a tyrant with my beliefs, though they are objectively true. The exponents of this bill, likewise, must not be allowed to tyrannically rule with their objectively false beliefs.

Partisanship has destroyed the spirit of unity that brought “out of many, one,” and, if allowed to continue, it will destroy our Union. The parties act beyond their helpful limits and exist to perpetuate themselves and enrich their leadership. They are used to decry their opponent’s movement toward dictatorship while consolidating enough power to create their own. Again, per Washington: “It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.”

You cannot completely control “the other side’s” portion of the raging conflagration that is partisanship, but you can keep your respective party’s section from consuming our State. Or you can keep looking out for your buddies and favorite nephews at the expense of the People of the State of Maine.

I ask the members of this Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

Winterport