

Wendy Fenderson
Limerick
LD 335

Testimony in Opposition to LD 335
Wendy L. Fenderson
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I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to LD 335.

Although this bill is framed as funding for “reproductive health services,” it would direct state dollars to organizations that provide a wide range of services beyond cancer screenings and family planning. These services may include abortion procedures and gender-affirming hormone therapies.

Even if the appropriation is labeled for certain categories of care, public funds are fungible. Providing institutional funding strengthens and sustains the overall operations, staffing, facilities, and infrastructure of those entities. In practical effect, this bill would stabilize organizations whose scope of services extends well beyond what many Maine taxpayers may believe they are funding.

This proposal also replaces federal funding that was intentionally restricted. If Congress determined that certain providers should not receive federal reimbursement, Maine should carefully consider whether it is appropriate to override that policy decision with state General Fund dollars.

Additionally, this bill raises important fiscal and accountability concerns:

- What long-term General Fund obligation is being created?
- How will strict separation and auditing of funds be enforced?
- What precedent does this set for replacing future federal funding restrictions?

At a time when Maine faces significant fiscal pressures and competing priorities, the Legislature should be cautious about establishing a permanent funding stream that expands state support to politically divisive institutions.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 335.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limerick, Maine