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Freeport
LD 335

In January, I became an American.

At the ceremony, I thought about what it means to belong to a country where fundamental rights are increasingly under threat—where immigrants are hunted in political rhetoric and policy, where newcomers seeking safety encounter barriers to basic health care, and where even those born and raised in Maine struggle to access essential services, especially in rural areas. I am a mother of two, and nothing clarifies the stakes more than raising children while watching bodily autonomy erode and wondering what happened to the idea of medicine as a common good.

Since the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, women in this country have been surveilled like never before. Pregnancies, miscarriages, medical decisions—even travel across state lines—are scrutinized and politicized. This shapes how women seek care and whether we trust systems meant to protect us.

Here in Maine, we sometimes believe we are insulated. Our laws are strong. But rights on paper mean little without access to care.

Federal changes have cut key funding to reproductive health providers that also offer abortion services, including Maine Family Planning, which operates clinics across the state, many in rural communities. These cuts have forced reductions in care and threaten access to birth control, screenings, and primary care.

LD 335 stands out as a crucial response. It would stabilize funding and protect access to essential, time-sensitive care even as federal attacks continue. Maine's elected officials must support it and defend the health of our families and communities.

I want my children to grow up where bodily autonomy is real and care is never conditional.