



May 1, 2023

Senator Donna Bailey, Representative Anne Perry, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee ,

My name is Lucy Hull, and I am a staff member with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!). I'm writing to testify on behalf of GRR! in support of **LD 935: An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance.**

GRR! is an education and advocacy organization, working intergenerationally to secure access to abortion care and reproductive services for **all**, which of course includes our children, grandchildren and future generations. GRR! was founded in Maine in 2013 and many of us are here today. Because of our decades of experience with reproductive issues, GRR!'s understand deeply the importance of access, logistically and financially, to reproductive healthcare. When Maine health insurance plans require extra cost sharings, abortion becomes inaccessible for vulnerable Mainers.

LD 935 completes the advances begun in 2019 when Maine's legislature passed LD 820, An Act To Prevent Discrimination in Public and Private Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women in Maine. Too many Mainers are already struggling with high deductible insurance plans, copays, and coinsurance costs. These cost barriers prohibit pregnant Mainers from being able to access either abortion care *or* prenatal care. These barriers must come down.

LD 935 would level the playing field on abortion access for people with all types of insurance and lift the burden of financing off the backs of patients during a time of record inflation and rising costs of goods and services. Abortion should not be a right that only a privileged few can afford. The Guttmacher Institute reports that the majority of people seeking an end to an unintended pregnancy were using at least one contraceptive method at the time they became pregnant<sup>1</sup>. GRR!'s know how desperate it feels to find oneself pregnant despite precautions. Adding cost barriers during this time in someone's life is inhumane, and Mainers have repeatedly shown support for improving access to abortion care by removing insurance and cost barriers. GRR! urges the committee to vote in support of LD 935.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Lucy Hull & GRR!'s across Maine

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2018/01/reported-contraceptive-use-month-becoming-pregnant-among-us-abortion-patients-2000>