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TESTIMONY OF MEAGAN SWAY, ESQ.

Ought to Pass

**LD 2203, An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved
Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives**

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage,
Insurance and Financial Services

February 20, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, greetings. My name is Meagan Sway, and I am Policy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions through advocacy, education, and litigation. On behalf of our members, we support LD 2203, that expand access to affordable birth control for people in Maine.

The right to decide if, when, and how to have children is critical to a person's autonomy, equality, and ability to participate in the social, economic, and political life of the state and the nation. Reproductive autonomy is essential to fulfill the promise of equality and self-determination rooted in our nation's and our state's founding documents and principles. Reproductive autonomy means opportunity: the opportunity to obtain an education, to work, to love, to build a family, to make a good life, and ultimately, the opportunity to live that life as one desires. Too often, how much money a person has limits that autonomy and opportunity.

If passed, LD 2203 would update Maine's laws to require health insurers to cover not only prescription birth control, but also over-the-counter birth control that is approved by the FDA, without requiring cost-sharing. This will eliminate the need for a prescription before insurance will cover birth control, allowing people who cannot easily access to a health care provider to still meet their basic health care needs without financial burden.

Increasing access to birth control increases a person's bodily and reproductive autonomy. We urge you to vote *ought to pass*.