

Representative Mathieson and Senator Bailey and the honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services

My name is Anghy Tehuitzil, and I am a resident of Augusta, Maine. I represent Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement building power to win human dignity, equity, access and a livable future across rural and suburban Maine. I am here today in strong support of LD 163, *An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives and Nonprescription Emergency Contraceptives*.

I speak today not only for myself, but for every woman—including my two younger sisters, my mother who raised us, and the countless other women whose voices are not always heard. I stand before you because I believe every woman has the fundamental right to make decisions about her own body without unnecessary barriers.

Maine has been a leader in preserving access to reproductive freedom, in the face of growing political opposition, especially with the devastating overturn of *Roe V. Wade*. Maine must continue to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare, which must include requiring insurance companies to cover nonprescription contraceptives or allowing individuals to seek reimbursement.

Equitable healthcare means breaking down barriers between women and the contraceptive options they need. Some of the greater barriers include financial hardships, immigration status, youth, and access for small rural areas. This bill is more than just access; it is about fairness, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities who have long faced systemic inequities in healthcare. BIPOC communities, already disproportionately impacted by economic injustice, and are three times more likely than white women to experience an unintended pregnancy. The high cost of contraception is one of the key drivers of racial disparities in access to these contraceptives.

By ensuring that insurance companies cover both nonprescription contraceptives and emergency contraceptives without required prescription, we are not only improving access—we are affirming the right of women to make autonomous, informed decisions about their own reproductive health, free from all barriers.

I urge you to vote *ought to pass LD 163*. This is not just a matter of health; it is a matter of justice for all women.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Anghy Tehuitzil