



Testimony in support

LD 537, "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action"

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

March 3, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Laura Harper. I'm a senior associate at Moose Ridge Associates and I live in Hallowell. I'm here on behalf of both Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, to testify in support of LD 537, "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action."

For 50 years, Maine Family Planning (MFP), an independent, private not-for-profit, has served as the State of Maine's statewide grantee for federal Title X funds and for State funds allocated to support the provision of clinical sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. As the statewide grantee, MFP provides SRH services in 19 sites in some of the state's most rural communities—including Calais, Rumford, and Ft. Kent as well as one mobile medical unit that allows us to better serve patients who are less able to visit our brick and mortar sites. MFP also manages subcontracts with a host of community-based providers, including: 4 Planned Parenthood of Northern New England clinics; 32 Federally Qualified Health Centers with sites throughout the state; and with 8 school-based health centers. Altogether, Maine's sexual and reproductive health care network consists of 63 individual sites.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE) provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care in approximately 10,000 visits per year in Maine at four health centers located in Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, and Topsham, as well as online via telehealth. People turn to both MFP and PPNNE for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, disease testing and treatment, cancer screenings, abortion care, gender-affirming care, as well as a variety of primary care services.

As mission driven health care providers, we fundamentally believe everyone should be able to access affordable, high quality sexual and reproductive health care in their communities, no matter where they live or how much money they make, and we advocate for policies that help make this vision a reality. All people deserve to access comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion and gender-affirming care, free from shame, stigma, and intimidation.



We see everyone who comes to us regardless of ability to pay. For many, we are their only access to the health care system.

Everyone should feel safe, supported, and affirmed in their health care decisions, including and especially young people. At MFP and PPNNE, we believe all people should have access to the reproductive health care they need to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives. This includes access to supportive, gender-affirming care, which we are proud to provide.

As providers, we advocate for the health and wellbeing of our patient population and work to advance policies that support the populations that we serve. We know that far too many people struggle to access the essential sexual and reproductive health care they need. That's especially true for LGBTQ+ people, who experience stigma, discrimination, and barriers not only in their access to and experiences of health care, but also in many other areas of their lives.

As the national and state landscape becomes more and more threatening to trans health care and trans people, it is more important than ever that we work to protect our trans patients, with special focus on trans young people and the serious risks they face. The data speaks for itself: 46% of transgender and nonbinary young people seriously considered attempting suicide in 2024,<sup>1</sup> and, in states that have passed anti-transgender laws targeting minors suicide attempts among this population increased as much as 72%.<sup>2</sup> Put simply, the health and safety of trans and non-binary young people are in extreme danger.

We can and must do everything we can to protect young people in our state. It is for this reason that we support LD 537—especially in light of the behavior of certain state leaders who have caused real harm to young people by publicly disclosing personal identifying information without their consent. At a baseline, we can all agree that young people in Maine deserve to live healthy, safe lives without fearing that their personal information will be exposed to the world by adults, including state leaders who should be ensuring their safety. We urge you to pass LD 537 to prohibit this dangerous behavior, create consequences for those who commit it, and protect our young people.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/09/25/nx-s1-5127347/more-trans-teens-attempted-suicide-after-states-passed-anti-trans-laws-a-study-shows>