

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the committee, My name is Sheldon Hussiere and I am here on behalf of my 12-year-old daughter. Every day, I see the challenges our children face, especially young girls like my daughter and her friends, who are growing up in a community with limited access to basic healthcare. This is why I am urging you to support the children of our state by approving LD 143. Family Planning of Maine provides primary care, pregnancy testing and family support services — because our children deserve to have affordable and available health care.

My daughter's friends, many of whom come from low-income families, often go without essential healthcare services. Simple things like annual check-ups, vaccinations, and access to mental health resources are out of reach for them. As they approach adolescence, the need for specialized care—such as reproductive health education and services—becomes even more critical. Without their local clinic, these young women are left vulnerable, their futures compromised by a lack of preventative care and support.

I see the potential in these girls every day. They are bright, resilient, and full of dreams. However, without proper healthcare, their ability to thrive is stifled. Family Planning health clinics in each of our communities not only address physical health needs, but also empower these young women to lead healthier, more confident lives. It would give them the tools to succeed in school, pursue their goals, and break the cycle of poverty that has held our community back for too long.

Each clinic is not just a building—it's a lifeline. It's a promise to our children that their health and well-being matter. I urge you, as leaders, to invest in their futures. By funding this clinic, you are not only supporting my daughter and her friends but also laying the foundation for a stronger, healthier community. Please, don't let these girls down. They are counting on us to make the right choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheldon T. Hussiere