

maine family planning

Post Office Box 587
Augusta, ME 04332-0587

t: 207.622.7524

f: 207.622.0836

Testimony in support:

LD 2106, "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review"

Joint Standing Committee On Judiciary

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee On Judiciary, my name is Laura Harper, I'm a Senior Associate at Moose Ridge Associates and I live in Hallowell. I am here today testifying on behalf of my client, Maine Family Planning (MFP) in strong support LD 2106, "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review" sponsored by Representative Sato.

MFP provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care to adults and teens at 18 health centers statewide as well as one mobile medical unit. For more than 50 years, MFP has also served as the non-profit administrator of Maine's statewide family planning network, encompassing federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), school-based health centers, as well as four Planned Parenthood clinics in Southern Maine. Altogether, Maine's sexual and reproductive health care network consists of 63 individual sites, stretching from Calais, to Fort Kent and all the way down to Sanford.

At MFP our mission is to ensure that all people have access to high-quality, culturally relevant and affordable sexual and reproductive health care services, comprehensive sexual health education, and the right to control their sexual and reproductive lives. To put it more succinctly, we provide affordable, confidential care no matter who you are or where you live. There are no exceptions here - our commitment to patient confidentiality is just as rigorous regardless of your age or legal status. We are proud to provide the care we do to all Mainers, including noncitizen residents. As a matter of course, we strictly follow HIPAA and other privacy laws to ensure our patient's sensitive data remains private.

Unfortunately, the tactics of fear and intimidation outside the clinic or in the waiting room are not new to us. There is a violent history surrounding access to sexual and reproductive health care - from the clinic bombings and invasions more common in the 90's to ICE intimidation at sister clinics in Minnesota this month. Our staff are trained and ready to protect patient safety and privacy in the most hostile of situations. We know that all people should be able to access healthcare without fear of intimidation including from federal agencies. This means knowing and following the law.

In the face of shifting policy from the federal government, LD 2106 makes clear in Maine law what is and is not permitted. MFP appreciates this clarity. Per Section 2 of the bill, it is prohibited for any one acting on behalf of our health care facility to give consent permitting a law enforcement officer engaged in immigration enforcement or supporting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of the health care facility or access, review or obtain patient records. This bill provides a buttress to long-standing MFP practice of protecting patient privacy & safety. We urge your support.

Thank you so much for your time and attention. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.