



American College of
Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Testimony in Support

LD 335 “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services”

February 25, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Anne Marie van Hengel and I am a resident of Portland Maine. I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and have practiced for over 30 years. I'm here today on behalf of the Maine Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing 186 members in our state. As practicing Ob-Gyns across the state committed to providing patient-centered, evidence-based women's health care, the Maine Section of ACOG endorses LD 335, “An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services.”

The sexual and reproductive health care (SRH) provider network in Maine has continued to provide safe and affordable, essential primary and behavioral services to thousands of Mainers despite the targeted attacks implemented by federal H.R. 1, a thinly veiled attempt to gut access to this critical network of providers by prohibiting reimbursement for essential services simply because they also provide abortion care. It's apparent that living in Maine, where our laws are protective of reproductive health care, does not insulate our patients from the potential exposure to the far-reaching negative ripple effects of restrictive federal policies. Thousands of Mainers seek care within our SRH provider network and many of them rely on these facilities for essential primary care services including, but not limited to, cancer screenings, routine gynecologic care, STI testing and treatment, and behavioral health services. These clinics serve as the sole provider of care for many of our most vulnerable citizens. As the destabilizing federal cuts to publicly funded health services are implemented, as outlined in H.R. 1, the health inequities in Maine will only intensify, particularly in our rural communities where Maine's health care infrastructure is already fragile.

The provisions of LD 335 will allow for uninterrupted delivery of reproductive health care to Mainers in the inevitable event of further federal attempts at intrusion on their rights to access this essential care. LD 335 will create an emergency state funding mechanism for SRH services as a safety net in anticipation of Congress' plans to defund abortion providers in subsequent budget reconciliations. In addition, LD 335 will earmark consistent yearly funding for SRH services as opposed to maintaining the status quo barrier of unsustainable instability inherent in “one-time” funding provisions.

The key to understanding why consistent and adequate funding for Maine's SRH network is vital to the health and well-being of Maine women and families, is to understand that all aspects of sexual and reproductive health care are inextricably linked to full spectrum ob-gyn care. Policy and funding restrictions and bans on essential reproductive health services, including abortion, are demonstrably short-sighted of the much broader implications; increases in unintended/ mistimed pregnancies, increases in teen pregnancy, poor maternal and infant health outcomes, spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and missed cancer diagnoses to name a few. Aside from the deleterious health effects of these outcomes, the economic and societal costs associated with political intrusion on reproductive health care do not operate within a vacuum and are substantial.

Maine should pass legislation that promotes meaningful access to essential health services, provision of person-centered care and that supports reproductive autonomy; legislation that uplifts the health and dignity of our citizens. LD 335 is not about ideology; it's about building a sustainable and equitable full spectrum health infrastructure. ACOG therefore strongly advocates for legislation that ensures equitable access for Mainers throughout their lives and asserts that the full array of clinical services must be available and affordable to patients without the imposition of financial or legal barriers. A robust and consistent investment in family planning services under LD 335 will pay forward the dividends of health and well-being for Mainers. Maine ACOG urges you to vote "Ought-to-Pass" on LD 335.

Respectfully submitted

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Maine Section ACOG