



Testimony in Support of:
LD 335, An Act to Protect Funding for Family Planning Services
by Ash Northey on behalf of OUT Maine

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Ash Northey and I am the Policy Coordinator at OUT Maine. For over 30 years, we have dedicated ourselves to providing programming, services, and support to LGBTQ+ youth and their families. And we are in strong support of LD 335 and the sponsor's proposed amendment.

Every day, we work with young people who are doing their best to grow, learn, and build healthy futures. Many of them live in the most rural communities in Maine and are navigating poverty, housing instability, and other barriers to care. For many of the young people we serve, family planning providers are not just clinics – they are safe spaces. They are places where young people can ask questions without fear, receive medically accurate information, and access essential health services with dignity and respect. For LGBTQ+ teens, these services are life-saving.

In Maine, access to comprehensive health care has long been a bipartisan value grounded in public health, personal responsibility, and care for our neighbors. When funding for healthcare is threatened or destabilized, it is always the most vulnerable communities that feel it first.

This bill ensures that Maine can protect and preserve funding streams for family planning services, regardless of shifting federal priorities. This stability allows providers to retain staff, keep rural clinics open, invest in outreach, and continue offering sliding-scale services to those who need them the most. Bottom line, it's about health equity.

On behalf of the young people we serve, I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 335 and continue to protect healthcare coverage for all Mainers – including LGBTQ+ youth.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our communities.