

E. Richard

Fairfield

Testimony in Support: LD 335, An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am writing today in support of LD 335, "An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights".

Maine's family planning network, which consists of 19 Maine Family Planning health centers across rural Maine, 4 Planned Parenthood health centers in Southern Maine, and 32 Federally Qualified Health centers and 8 school-based health centers, provides comprehensive healthcare services in areas that are seeing more and more hospitals and healthcare providers leaving the area.

If Maine's family planning network is unable to remain open to provide healthcare in our communities, anti-abortion centers (AACs) will be in the position to fill that void. AACs are conservative Christian organizations whose primary goal is to keep people from accessing reproductive healthcare including contraceptive care and abortion care. The 11 AACs in Maine are unregulated, unlicensed, and do not follow HIPAA.

All people deserve to be able to access comprehensive primary medical care in their communities. Maine's family planning network must be fully funded so that legitimate regulated licensed providers can provide safe and medically accurate comprehensive care.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 335.