

Lucy Hull
ARROWSIC
LD 1954

Testimony in favor of LD 1954, An Act To Ensure Access to Prescription
Contraceptives

To Senator Heather Sanborn, Representative Denise Tepler and Members of the
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

Affordable access to contraceptives is basic and essential health care. Without
contraception we cannot live the lives we want to live. We cannot contribute to
society without being able to determine when (or if) we have our children. This
should be entirely obvious, but I state it anyway, since this is true for the vast majority
of the population.

What may be less obvious is that what kind of birth control is used matters. Not
everyone can tolerate every medication. Dosage matters, and different products
interact differently in individual patients' bodies.

The Affordable Care Act provides care to millions of Americans, including Maine
residents. It covers contraception, but there is a large hole in this coverage which
allows insurance companies to limit the options they pay for. Learning that many
patients in Maine are not using their preferred form of birth control because they can't
afford it is heartbreaking. We can and must do better than this.

Therefore, I applaud Senator Jackson for introducing this bill to fix that problem.
Insurance companies should not be determining what form of contraception they will
pay for. That should be determined by doctors and patients without interference.

Everyone is different, and our ability to tolerate different forms of contraception vary
widely. It is crucial that patients and doctors have choice in determining the best
contraceptive for each individual. This is an entirely private matter and should not be
determined by insurance companies.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Lucy Hull