

TESTIMONY OF MEAGAN SWAY, ESQ.

**LD 1594—Ought to Pass**

**An Act To Ensure Access to Prescription Contraceptives**

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

February 15, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, greetings. My name is Meagan Sway, and I am the policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I am here to testify in support of LD 1594, which would allow greater access to contraception in Maine.

Every sexually active person should have safe, affordable access to the full range of contraceptive options. Access to contraception is critical to an individual's autonomy, equality, and ability to participate in the social, economic, and political life of the nation, and should never be dependent on how much money they have. Meaningful access to contraception and freedom from coerced contraception are integral to our vision of a world in which people are free to express their sexuality, form intimate relationships, lead healthy sexual lives, and decide whether and when to have children.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) created a shift in landscape for contraception access, putting safe, effective birth control in reach for millions of low-income people by eliminating copays. This bill would fix gaps in the ACA that allow health insurers to restrict the contraceptives that it will cover even if the options they cover are not a good medical choice for the insured. By fixing this loophole, we will move closer to a world where people have access to the health care that is best for

their bodies, regardless of how much money is in their wallets or what is best for an insurance company's bottom line.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass."