

**Testimony of Amanda Taisey on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
In support of LD 2203: “An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally
Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives”
Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am writing on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)¹ in support of LD 2203.

Reproductive autonomy and access to contraception play an important role for survivors of domestic abuse and violence. In most cases, having a child binds two people together for the long term, even if their relationship ends. People who commit domestic abuse frequently use pregnancy as a way of inducing long-term connection, dependence, and compliance, and it is not uncommon for an abusive person to commit sexual assault without using protection². In many cases, abuse escalates after a child is born. Pregnancy itself is dangerous for survivors; pregnant patients are more likely to die from homicide than any other pregnancy related conditions,³ and the homicide rate among pregnant and postpartum women in 2020 increased 33% from 2019.⁴

Prescription requirements for oral contraceptives can create barriers to health care, including costs, logistical challenges like arranging transportation or childcare, and privacy and confidentiality, which are already concerns for people experiencing abuse and violence. We see passing LD 2203 as an opportunity to reduce barriers to healthcare and maintain that access to birth control is an essential element of reproductive autonomy, and that access to contraceptives must be understood as a key component of safety planning for survivors of domestic abuse and violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on LD 2203.

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¹ MCEDV serves a membership of Maine’s eight regional domestic violence resource centers as well as two culturally specific service providers. Our member programs provided services to more than 12,000 victims of domestic violence in Maine last year.

² [Understanding Pregnancy Resulting from Rape in the United States | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC](#)

³ Badcom, Emma. “Pregnant women more likely to be murdered than die from other causes.” Oct. 24, 2022.

⁴ Wallace, Maeve. Trends in Pregnancy-Associated Homicide, United States, 2020. Am J Public Health. 2022 Sep;112(9):1333-1336. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2022.306937. Epub 2022 Jul 7.