



Grandmothers For Reproductive Rights

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Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and esteemed members of the Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I am Cait Vaughan, Interim Executive Director with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), and I am writing in support of LD 2203, *An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives*. GRR! is an organization comprised of powerful, older women that works, through education and advocacy, to secure access to sexual & reproductive health, rights and justice for present and future generations.

Members of our organization came of age in times when birth control was illegal, less effective and/or required the permission of a married woman's husband to access. The harms of withholding full and unfettered access to birth control are felt widely and deeply by all people who are pregnancy capable. Pregnancy is a serious condition in one's life that has long-term emotional, physical, social, spiritual, economic and professional impacts. It is not simply a few weeks or nine months of change, depending on someone's pregnancy outcome; it is lifelong. This is why we in this movement have said for decades that access to birth control is essential to the full participation of women in our society; and we now add that it is essential to anyone who can become pregnant, regardless of gender.

On a national level, we are in bleak times for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. Maine, however, makes us proud by continuing to advance accessibility of comprehensive sexual health education, abortion care, and contraceptives. We urge you to do everything you can to keep control of Mainers' reproductive futures in their own hands, providing every tool to make it possible for us to shape our lives as we see fit. Please vote Ought To Pass on LD 2203 and keep Maine a place where sexual and reproductive autonomy flourishes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cait Vaughan
Portland, ME

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