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**TESTIMONY PRESENTED  
BY  
MAINE FAMILY PLANNING  
IN SUPPORT OF  
LD343: AN ACT TO SET ASIDE FUNDS FROM FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS FOR  
CERTAIN COMMUNITIES**

March 24, 2021

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

Maine Family Planning is a sexual and reproductive health care provider operating 18 clinical sites across 12 Maine counties, providing contraceptive care; sexual health education training and technical assistance to public schools throughout the state; and advocating for policy change that advances the principles of reproductive justice.

In addition, Maine Family Planning serves as the statewide administrator for federal and state funds helping to support the provision of sexual and reproductive health care services in 32 other sites, including 4 operated by Planned Parenthood of New England in Maine's southern-most counties, 23 clinical sites operated by Federally Qualified Health Centers and 5 school based health centers. Together, this network meets the sexual and reproductive health needs of nearly 26,000 patients annually.

We rely on federal block grants to sustain Maine's statewide family planning network. These dollars ensure that Mainers seeking reproductive health care have access regardless of where they live or their ability to pay. These dollars pay for family planning services and do not include abortion.

Maine Family Planning supports the principles embodied in LD 343. While the term vulnerable communities is not defined in the bill, we feel confident that Maine's family planning network already meets this standard. In Calendar Year 2020, Maine's network of family planning providers served 25,863 patients, of which 36 percent lived at 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL); 15 percent at 101-150 percent FPL; 17 percent at 151-200 percent FPL; and 24 percent at 250 percent FPL or greater. We regularly provide care to people regardless of their ability to pay in some of Maine's most rural and isolated locations—including Machias, Calais, Norway, Rumford, Jackman, Skowhegan and Strong,

to name just a few.

We further support efforts to ensure that Maine's Tribes have access to federal dollars to ensure equitable access to vital services. We urge the committee to support LD 343 but with one amendment; allocating 12% of federal funds to Maine's Tribes should not mean a commensurate cut to existing services.

We ask that the committee consider adding language to the bill to clarify that existing grantees will not be cut 12% but that General Fund revenue will be used to keep these programs intact. As committee members may be aware, in 2019 Maine Family Planning rejected the Trump-Pence Gag Rule, and with it \$2 million in Federal Title X funds. All clinic doors throughout Maine have remained open thanks to additional private donations, existing state funds and the use of our own reserves. During calendar year 2020, our revenue dropped by \$492,227. We simply cannot sustain any additional cuts to our funding without a loss of services.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of our testimony. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

George A. Hill  
President/CEO