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Appropriations & Financial Affairs  
Committee, Chair

**Testimony introducing  
LD 811, “An Act To Compensate Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Providers  
Fairly for Comprehensive Primary Care Delivery”**

**Senator Cathy Breen  
March 25, 2022**

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Cathy Breen. I represent Maine Senate District 25, which includes the communities of Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, Long Island, Yarmouth, and about half of the City of Westbrook. I am here today to speak in support of **LD 811, “An Act To Compensate Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Providers Fairly for Comprehensive Primary Care Delivery”**

I introduced this bill to ensure that Maine’s family planning providers receive a MaineCare reimbursement commensurate with the services they deliver. I fully support this committee’s and the Department of Health and Human Services’ efforts to comprehensively address MaineCare rates and do not see this proposal as contrary to that work. LD 811 seeks to address a gap in the system rather than preempt the plan to address overall rates. The bill provides an equity payment to providers to acknowledge the wide-ranging spectrum of care they provide — care that often goes far beyond what we think of as family planning.

Reproductive health care providers are on the front line of Maine’s health care system. Patients are largely people in their 20s and 30s. For many of these clients, family planning providers are the only health care professionals they see. And these providers see everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

Because of this, family planning providers deal with a scope of issues beyond what we would normally associate with them — issues often referred to as social determinants of health: mental health, substance use, tobacco use, personal safety, and access to basic needs like food and housing security. Covid-19 has only broadened the range of patient needs.

The current MaineCare reimbursement rate for these providers does not reflect the broad scope of work they do and the trust they must establish and maintain in order to treat their clients. This proposed equity payment, variations of which exist in Vermont and Oregon, will go a long way to making these providers whole. The enhanced match of nine to one provided by the federal Medicaid program means this small investment by

the state can yield enormous results and make a real difference in the lives of those who provide and receive these critical services.

We ask a lot from family planning providers. This bill seeks to allow them to be compensated appropriately for the vast amount of important work they do. There are several providers here today to offer more specifics in their testimony. Thank you for your consideration.