

Testimony in support

LD 811, “An Act to Improve the Equity and Affordability of Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Provided by Family Planning Health Centers”

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

March 25, 2022

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Sarah McLean. I am a Clinical Social Worker in Presque Isle and I am testifying in support of LD 811.

Years ago I had my own counseling practice and was underinsured. I did not have employer-paid insurance and the marketplace didn't offer me any subsidy, so I chose to only get short-term insurance for emergencies.

Then I had an abnormal Pap and needed a colposcopy. I shopped around, because I was self-pay. I ended up choosing to visit MFP because it was much less expensive than my other options. I also felt most comfortable with the idea of going there since they specialize in sexual and reproductive health care.

I had a really positive experience with my visit and services there, right from my first appointment. The staff were so friendly and welcoming. I had complete privacy and felt really at home. I have continued to receive services there because of this experience. I switched my ob/gyn care to MFP. I have had other services there since that first appointment and have always left the clinic feeling really positive and taken care of. While I can now afford to go elsewhere, I choose to continue going to MFP because I appreciate that they are a local community provider offering person-centered care.

This is why when I heard they were offering primary care, I signed up right away. I have never had a frustrating time at the front desk or had to wait on calls or anything like that that happens in primary care these days, because of how overloaded primary care providers are. At MFP, I feel 100% confident in my healthcare services and have never worried if they were missing something.

As a provider of mental health care myself, I know how important it is, especially these days, for everyone to have access to local providers they can count on to see them, hear them, and help them be well. That's why I hope the Committee supports this bill, to better support these unique providers and their patients. Thank you.