



Testimony before the Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 335 An Act To Safeguard Reproductive Rights

February 25, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee:

I am Rev. Jane Field, a resident of Portland, an ordained Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister, and the Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a coalition of seven Protestant denominations (Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), Presbyterian (PCUSA), Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, United Methodist and United Church of Christ) who represent more than 400 local congregations in Maine with over 50,000 members in their care. The Maine Council of Churches **supports** LD 335.

I am likely not the only Christian you will hear from on this bill. And while I respect the right of those Christians who oppose this bill to testify to *their* interpretation of Christianity, let me be perfectly clear: *their* interpretation is not mine, nor is it that of the Maine Council of Churches nor of their member denominations. My own denomination, for example, has advocated for reproductive justice since 1970, *before* Roe v. Wade, understanding the termination of a pregnancy, prescription of contraceptive medication, testing for sexually transmitted infections and cancer, and all reproductive health care to be a matter of careful decisions by patients, in consultation with medical professionals, that should not be restricted by law or by withholding of funding.

A majority of Christians here in Maine and across the United States believe as we do, and in recent years, **we at the Council of Churches have consistently advocated in the Maine state legislature for protecting the right of people in Maine to access reproductive health care (including abortion). We believe that access to health care, including reproductive health care, is a basic human right.**

LD 335 will ensure that patients can continue to access essential reproductive health care in Maine even in the face of federal attacks on that care. It would safeguard access to critical care for the most vulnerable people here by offsetting the funding hole created by HR 1, by creating an emergency state funding mechanism for impacted health care providers, and by earmarking ongoing funding to reproductive health care providers.

As strong as the laws of Maine are in protecting reproductive *rights*, they are meaningless without access to care. Politically motivated funding cuts and attacks, along with lapsed ACA subsidies mean more Mainers are going without insurance and will turn to Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England for their reproductive health care. We call on the legislature to ensure that these organizations, who are already providing that care so well (often despite not being reimbursed for those services), can continue to provide this essential care and maintain their commitment to their patients.

For all these reasons, the Maine Council of Churches urges you to vote “Ought To Pass” on LD 335.