



## **Testimony in Support of LD 2067**

*An Act To Authorize the Automatic Continuation of Absentee Voter Status until the Termination of That Status*

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck, and members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Angelica Katz, Public Policy Director for Planned Parenthood Northern New England and I'm pleased to submit testimony in support of LD 2067.

As you may know, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual healthcare to more than 12,000 people in Maine at four health centers located in Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, and Topsham. People turn to us for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, disease testing and treatment, and cancer screenings as well as a variety of primary care services. For many, we are their only access to the healthcare system.

As a healthcare provider, we take security seriously, including the security and relief that our patients are able to find knowing that they can plan for their future. LD 2067 will allow Mainers who already know that they will be voting in multiple elections to join an ongoing absentee voting list which will provide them the security needed to plan ahead.

Many of the individuals that we serve live in rural areas, where transportation is limited. Therefore, we know that getting to their polling place from work on election day can be a multi-hour commitment.

This legislation will ensure that we do right by Mainers who work hard all day and still need to care for their families at the end of the night and ensure that voting isn't an undue burden. Maine has demonstrated through its existing absentee voting laws that we believe voters should have options on how they cast their ballot on Election Day, and by limiting the bureaucratic burden for voters, everybody wins.

Let's give Mainer's options that suit their lifestyle, while still ensuring that our elections are secure and modern. LD 2067 is a small step in reducing needless paperwork, saving money, and giving voters the choices that they deserve. I strongly urge you to pass LD 2067.