

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Abbie Strout
Email: abbie@mabelwadsworth.org
Phone: (207) 947-5337 x105

LIFTING THE VOICES OF MAINE WOMEN AND SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT TO SUPPORT DR. BLASEY FORD

Women's advocates, healthcare providers, and survivors of sexual assault to hold press event in response to Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's allegations of sexual assault against Brett Kavanaugh

BANGOR, Maine - The Maine Women's Lobby together with Mabel Wadsworth Center and other healthcare providers are joining with survivors of sexual assault to hold a press event and rally on Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 10:00 to 11:00AM in front of Senator Susan Collins' Bangor Office at the Federal Building to support Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and decry [Senator Susan Collins' proposal](#) to cross-examine her on national television. This event is open to the public. Experts on sexual assault will also be available.

Speakers to include:

Eliza Townsend, Executive Director, Maine Women's Lobby
Aislinn Canarr, Board Member, Mabel Wadsworth Center
Nichole "Nik" Sparlin, survivor of sexual assault and advocate
Julie Jenkins, WHNP, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Maine Family Planning
Rev. Gail Foss, RN, LADC, Center for Holistic Recovery

Together we stand united in support of Dr. Blasey Ford, a professor and research scientist at Palo Alto University, in bravely coming forward to share her story despite death threats and significant risk to her career and family. We believe Dr. Blasey Ford in her description of a sexual assault by Brett Kavanaugh. As the #MeToo movement has demonstrated, this experience is all too common. Sexual assault is the most underreported violent crime in the U.S. Many survivors fear coming forward due to retaliation and threats toward their personal well-being, families, and careers. Their stories must be taken seriously and be weighed with careful consideration while ensuring that survivors like Dr. Blasey Ford are protected.

We are deeply disappointed in the decision by Senator Susan Collins to suggest cross-examination of Dr. Blasey Ford. This is a confirmation process for a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court, not a trial of a woman who bravely came forward to share a traumatizing experience. We need Senator Collins to demonstrate to the women of Maine and across America through her leadership that she believes women and will not tolerate sexual assault.

The entire hearing has been fraught with irregularity, but Kavanaugh's response to Dr. Blasey Ford's allegations and the subsequent attacks on Dr. Blasey Ford are truly alarming. Along with his refusal in the hearing to reaffirm *Roe v. Wade*, Kavanaugh has demonstrated a clear pattern of disregard for women's fundamental rights and dignity.

About Mabel Wadsworth Center:

Mabel Wadsworth Center is an independent, non-profit, community-based feminist health center located in Bangor that serves Mainers from across the state. Established in 1984, it is the longest-serving abortion care provider in Maine. The Center provides healthcare using a feminist model, focused on sexual and reproductive health through education, advocacy, and clinical services.

About Maine Women's Lobby:

The Maine Women's Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates for Maine's 678,000 women and girls. Our four policy focus areas are freedom from violence, freedom from discrimination, access to health care – including reproductive health care, and economic security.