

Amy VanHaren  
pumpspotting  
LD 1184

On behalf of Pumpspotting, I am reaching out for your support of LD 1184, an act to exempt certain prescribed home medical equipment and supplies from sales tax. This legislation is important to breastfeeding moms in the great state of Maine, especially during a time when families are still facing infant formula shortages. Currently, there is no straight sales tax exemption for breastfeeding equipment or supplies like there is for other home medical equipment and supplies under MRS Sales, Fuel, & Special Tax Division Instructional Bulletin No. 41. While we would prefer a full sales tax exemption of breastfeeding equipment and supplies, especially since infant formula is exempt, we feel this bill would also help families that purchase prescribed breast pumps, parts, and milk storage bags using their insurance benefit.

Breastfeeding and thus the feeding of human milk to children has been associated with improved health and lower health care costs (family and societal) resulting from fewer physician visits, hospitalization stays, prescriptions, and other illnesses and diseases. The cost-savings of tax-exempt breastfeeding equipment and supplies will go a long way to further promote, support and protect breastfeeding in Maine. Providing tax exempt breastfeeding equipment and supplies can result in increased breastfeeding rates, infant growth rates, lower infant morbidity and mortality rates, reduced health disparities, and cost-savings.