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LD 865

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 865, An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons.

Access to professional lactation support is crucial for new mothers to establish and maintain successful breastfeeding practices. By enabling in-home lactation services, LD 865 ensures that all MaineCare recipients, regardless of their location or circumstances, can receive the necessary support during this critical period.

I have firsthand experience with the difference that proper lactation support can make. With my first child, I did not receive adequate guidance and was never able to produce enough milk. I later learned that I had been using the wrong pumping supplies, had received poor advice, and that my child had undiagnosed issues that impacted their ability to transfer milk efficiently. The lack of support led to unnecessary stress and ultimately impacted my breastfeeding journey. However, with my second child, I sought private lactation support both prenatally and in the first few months postpartum. With proper guidance, education, and encouragement, I have been able to provide enough milk for my baby this time around. This experience has shown me just how critical accessible, high-quality lactation support can be for families.

Lactation consultants offer personalized care, addressing specific challenges that mothers and infants may face. This approach not only promotes better health outcomes but also aligns with the goal of reducing healthcare disparities among underserved populations. Furthermore, breastfeeding has been shown to provide significant health benefits for both infants and mothers as well as improved maternal-child bonding. By supporting LD 865, we invest in the long-term health and well-being of Maine families.

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 865 and recommend its passage.