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March 11, 2025

**Committee on Health and Human Services  
Maine State Legislators**

RE: Support for LD 865: An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 865. I am a Licensed Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), and Co-Chair of Maine Association of Certified Professional Midwives (MACPM) living in Kingfield, ME. I practice at my clinic in Kingfield and within an hour and a half radius of my home here.

MaineCare reimbursement for lactation care and support will increase access for families and improve maternal and infant health. Human milk is the best food for babies to grow and thrive. As a midwife and lactation consultant that works in the community setting, the birth parent and baby/babies are seen as a unit. We assess and monitor the health of both as each are essential to the other for optimal health.

Access to lactation care after discharge will help more families meet their feeding goals. The first two weeks at home can be challenging, and a good feeding relationship at discharge can deteriorate quickly if not managed in a timely manner. Lactation consultants are trained to manage many common challenges that come up and to recognize when referrals are necessary. When families are able to meet their feeding goals they have increased confidence in their parenting.

Lactation consultants are able to care for families at any stage during lactation. Returning to school or work and weaning are often overlooked. Learning how to manage body feeding and bottle feeding, as well as safe storage and handling of milk, will extend the feeding relationship. Weaning comes with a range of emotions and challenges that lactation consultants can support and guide families through the transition.

I support this bill to increase access to lactation care for Maine families to improve maternal and infant health, help families meet their feeding goals and increase their confidence in parenting, and to support families through normal transitions that can have unique challenges during their lactation journey.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Dewar CPM, LM, IBCLC

