

Taylor Steel
Pownal
LD 865

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee of Health and Human Services,

My name is Taylor Steel, and I am a mother of two who was fortunate to have access to clinical IBCLC services when my children were under the age of one. These services played a vital role in helping them thrive, grow, and develop in those early years. I am writing today to urge you to support LD 865.

Every family deserves access to clinical IBCLC services. This important bill would allow all private practice IBCLCs to become credentialed and accept MaineCare. While breastfeeding is often seen as the natural choice, it can be challenging, and for many, it's not as easy as it may seem. I personally experienced frequent bouts of mastitis with my second child, and without the support of clinical IBCLC services, and the ability to get myself to those appointments, I would have struggled to continue breastfeeding. These services provided me with the guidance and care I needed to overcome painful obstacles, ensuring that I could continue breastfeeding, nourish my baby, and avoid the financial strain of buying formula.

Again, I am asking you to support LD 865, IBCLC reimbursement for Mainecare, to provide additional access to IBCLCs and equitable care to all Mainers.

Thank you for your time,
Taylor