

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I'm writing you today in support of LD865, An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons.

I am a Brunswick resident, a family physician, and mother to an amazing two and a half year old, with our second child expected next month. I wish I was testifying in person today, but I have a pregnancy related appointment scheduled at the same time.

As a family doctor and parent, I have seen the difference that high quality clinical IBCLC services can make in helping families meet their goals. This bill would allow all private practice IBCLC's to be credentialed by and accept MaineCare payments.

When I gave birth to my son, I knew all the benefits of breastfeeding and had a goal of breastfeeding for at least a year. And yet, I struggled physically and emotionally. I spent weeks working with multiple lactation professionals but was only able to find success once I found an IBCLC in my area. I was lucky that she took my private insurance. With her help, I met and exceeded my goals and breastfed my child for nearly two years.

As a mom and a physician, I want everyone in Maine to have access to the same clinical IBCLC services that I had and urge you to support LD 865, An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons.

Thank you for your time.

Kathleen Polonchek, MD
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