

Lily Lachance  
Portland  
LD 865

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

I am here today to urge you to support LD 865. As a new mother, I quickly realized how essential clinical IBCLC services are in the postpartum period. Before having a child, I had no idea how challenging breastfeeding could be—or if I did hear warnings, I didn't fully believe them. That changed when I faced the struggle myself, a deeply personal experience that required professional care. Every family deserves access to expert, personalized help, and this bill will ensure that all private practice IBCLCs can credential and accept MaineCare.

When I brought my daughter home, she wouldn't latch effectively. I resorted to exclusively pumping to feed her. Then, just two weeks postpartum, I developed mastitis and lost my entire milk supply—something I had worked so hard to build. I was devastated. Without the skilled care of IBCLCs Paula Norcott and Nicole Hart of Maine Mother and Company, I would have given up breastfeeding far earlier than I had hoped. Their expertise and unwavering support helped me not only rebuild my supply but surpass what I thought was possible. Every mother and family deserves access to this level of care.

I urge you to support LD 865 to ensure IBCLC reimbursement through MaineCare, expanding access to vital lactation services and providing equitable care to all Mainers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.