

LD865: An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons

Hello,

My name is Maeve Shea, and I am an IBCLC providing home visits throughout Southern, Midcoast, and Western Maine. I offer clinical feeding/lactation services to Mainers during the perinatal period.

Accessibility to healthcare for all is a major priority for me. I am a queer, cis-woman who has personally benefited from MaineCare. I have had to decide between my health and financial stability before. With MaineCare, I didn't have to make that impossible decision any longer.

As a provider, my goal is to never have to turn away a client due to their finances. I believe all folks who need clinical services should be able to access that care. Because of this goal, I have offered a sliding scale to folks who use MaineCare. This still requires them to pay out of pocket, and for my small business to be financially impacted.

In my work as an IBCLC, I have been connected with families with complex feeding cases, including: twins with a birthing parent readmitted to hospital for cesarean birth complications, a 36 week old newborn needing to use a feeding tube, and a full-term newborn born without a suck reflex. In all of these cases, my clinical knowledge helped get these families to primarily, if not exclusively, breast and chest feed their children without issue.

Folks are choosing to raise their families in Maine - we have the opportunity to show them we support them and value their infant's health. We need to be able to help new families have healthy and safe beginnings. MaineCare reimbursing clinical feeding care would not only deeply impact new Maine families, but also small lactation/feeding businesses all over Maine.

Thank you for your time,
Maeve Shea, IBCLC
Portland, ME

