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March 18, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Sen. Ingwersen, Rep. Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 865, *An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons*. As a mother of two, I have personally experienced the immense impact that access to clinical IBCLC services can have on both maternal and infant health.

With my first child, I struggled with breastfeeding challenges that ultimately contributed to significant postpartum depression. At the time, I was unaware that these clinical services from International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) were even available. My son often struggled to gain weight, and I was left feeling isolated and overwhelmed.

When I had my second child, I was fortunate to work with a certified IBCLC, and the difference was profound. Not only did it help my daughter gain weight at a normal pace, but it also significantly reduced my risk of postpartum depression. The guidance and support I received were invaluable, and I firmly believe all parents -- regardless of their financial situation -- should have access to the same level of care.

LD 865 is a crucial step toward ensuring that Maine families receive the support they need during such a critical time. By requiring MaineCare to reimburse for in-home lactation services, this bill will help remove barriers to care, improve health outcomes for infants and parents, and support families in making informed, healthy choices.

I urge you to support LD 865 and help make lactation support more accessible for all Maine families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erin Cavallaro
Ward 2, Westbrook