

Georgia Harlow  
Portland  
LD 865

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

My name is Georgia Harlow and I am here today to ask you to support LD 865. I am a mom of a 11 month old who has benefited from clinical IBCLC services.

I believe that all families deserve to have personalized lactation care. This bill will allow all private practice IBCLCs to credential and accept Mainecare. Let me tell you my story.

When I brought my baby home from the hospital he was a whopping 9 lbs and 15 ounces. He was in the 99th percentile for weight, as he had been for my entire pregnancy. At his first check up a few days later we learned that he hadn't gained weight - but his pediatrician told me not to worry. After a few more days of painful breastfeeding it was clear that he was not growing as he should and there was an issue with breastfeeding. His pediatrician had no advice - and why would he? He was my son's doctor, not mine. Luckily I was made aware of a Lactation Consultant in my area who was able to provide us with care. With her services I was able to feed my baby and he is now a happy and healthy 11 month old. Without that early Lactation Consultation my baby could have ended up needing emergency care.

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. It is critical to families and babies across the state.

Thank you for your time,  
Georgia Harlow