

Jenna Driscoll
Portland
LD 376

April 17th, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Jenna Driscoll, and I am here today in support of LD 1523 An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services. I am a OBGYN social worker.

I support LD 1523 because I know from firsthand experience that having a doula positively affected so many births by increasing supports during pregnancy and postpartum for individuals who have little to no support. Expanding this service to individuals who receive Mainecare will benefit so many underserved populations. The reality of the perinatal care landscape is that there are not a lot of additional resources available, so allowing doula services to be covered by insurance increases those resources. Doula services help add a little extra support to those who have little to no support in their lives. Because doula care is not currently covered under insurance, this care is inaccessible to most. Ensuring doula care is accessible is so important again because it allows for the individuals who cannot afford this service and who are in need of support to get the help needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I hope you will vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1523.

Thank you,
Jenna Driscoll