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Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2189, An Act to Require Prior Notification of Closures of Labor and Delivery Units and Changes in Maternity or Newborn Care Services by Hospitals as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services February 18, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in strong support of LD 2189, which seeks to require the prior notification of labor and delivery unit closures and changes to maternal and infant health care services.

Maine is facing a crisis in maternal & child health access. In just the last several years, the towns of Lincoln, Calais, Bridgton, York, Rumford, Fort Kent, Waterville, Belfast and Bar Harbor have all lost their sole labor & delivery units, with patients often being notified at the last minute of their closures. This leaves many patients and families scrambling to quickly figure out alternative plans for how to safely bring their child into the world. This bill ensures that patients receive prior notification of closures, and have adequate time to make other arrangements for labor and delivery.

As pediatricians, our members are deeply invested in ensuring that every child has the healthiest possible start in life, and that begins with high-quality, accessible maternal health care. While we understand that this bill does not preserve or increase access to infant and maternal health care, it does have the potential to reduce the risk of harm patients may experience from sudden L&D closures, and improves transparency and consistency in the healthcare system.

This bill is a small, but important piece in addressing the maternal and infant healthcare crisis. **We urge this committee to vote ‘Ought to Pass’ on LD 2189, and work to pass other measures that will meaningfully expand access to obstetric care.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses
Advocacy & Public Health Manager
Maine AAP

