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(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

## **Kelly Noonan Murphy**

5 Woodfield Drive

Scarborough, ME 04074

Phone: (207) 318-3215

[Kelly.murphy@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Kelly.murphy@legislature.maine.gov)

*Testimony of Rep. Kelly Murphy introducing*

## **LD 1858, An Act to Ensure Access to Newly Born Male Infant Circumcision by Requiring MaineCare Coverage**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kelly Noonan Murphy and I proudly represent House District 125, which is part of Scarborough in the Maine House. I come before you to present **LD 1858, An Act to Ensure Access to Newly Born Male Infant Circumcision by Requiring MaineCare Coverage** for your consideration.

In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated its policy statement on newborn male circumcision to say that “Evaluation of current evidence indicates that the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh the risks and that the procedure’s benefits justify access to this procedure for families who choose it.”<sup>1</sup>

It went on to say, “Although health benefits are not great enough to recommend routine circumcision for all male newborns, the benefits of circumcision are sufficient to justify access to this procedure for families choosing it and to warrant third-party payment for circumcision of male newborns.”<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has endorsed this statement.<sup>3</sup>

With regard to newborn male circumcisions performed within a MaineHealth hospital, less than 2% were covered by the family’s insurance. And the average cost of \$450 is not insignificant. LD 1858 mandates that MaineCare cover newborn male circumcision should a family choose it. I want to be clear, this is a decision that should be made by the family in consultation with their medical provider. If circumcision is the right choice for a family, the cost or lack of access to insurance should not be a barrier to accessing the procedure and its health benefits.

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<sup>1</sup>Blank et al. (2012). *Circumcision Policy Statement*. American Academy of Pediatrics. Retrieved from <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/130/3/585/30235/Circumcision-Policy-Statement?autologincheck=redirected>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

Specific benefits identified included prevention of urinary tract infections, penile cancer, and transmission of some sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Additionally, male circumcision performed during the newborn period has considerably lower complication rates than when performed later in life. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics says that medical benefits of newborn circumcision outweigh potential risks.<sup>4</sup> Also this research shows that states without Medicaid coverage have reduced numbers of newborn circumcision and that reduction disproportionately occurs in minority populations.<sup>5</sup>

In conclusion, I appreciate your consideration on the legislation and I am happy to answer any questions you have for me.

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<sup>4</sup> Zambrano Navia et al. (2020) *State-Level Public Insurance Coverage and Neonatal Circumcision Rates*. American Academy of Pediatrics. Retrieved from <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/146/5/e20201475/75297/State-Level-Public-Insurance-Coverage-and-Neonatal?autologincheck=redirected>

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*