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Testimony of House Chair Rep. Michele Meyer presenting
LD 156, An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Ingwersen and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Representative Michele Meyer, representing House District 150, which includes Eliot and parts of Kittery and South Berwick. I am glad to present to you today **LD 156, An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants**, which was brought to me by the Department of Health and Human Services.

As a Department proposal, I will look to Director Johnson to provide you with a detailed explanation of the proposal and answer your specific questions. In short, I am happy to sponsor this proposal because it improves and updates the law regarding identification of substance-exposed infants, what notifications need to be made, and how the Department responds to different notifications.

We know that best practice related to substance use disorder and how we can support children and families evolves. We also know that involvement with the Department can be traumatic for families, and expending staff resources on families who do not need intervention takes time away from those who do. This bill will help us respond more nimbly and effectively in cases where there is substance exposure of an infant at birth.

With that, I will hand it to Director Johnson. Thank you for your attention, and I hope you'll join me in supporting this bill.