

*132nd Legislature*  
***Senate of***  
***Maine***  
*Senate District 29*

***Senator Anne Carney***  
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*Testimony of Senator Anne Carney in support of*  
**LD 865, “An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services  
in the Homes of Eligible Persons,”**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*  
**March 18, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Senator Anne Carney, proudly representing Senate District 29, which includes South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and part of Scarborough. It is a pleasure to be with you to speak in support of LD 865, “An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons.”

Increasing access to child and maternal health care has been a policy priority for me for the entire time I’ve served in the Maine Legislature. We’ve worked together to make sure Maine babies and kids get the health care they need to lead happy, healthy and successful lives. Support from Republican, Independent and Democratic legislators has put Maine on par with our New England neighbors by fully utilizing all federal funds to provide child and maternal health care.

This legislation is an important component to child and maternal health care, and it’s vital to getting moms and newborns off to a healthy start in the first few weeks and months. Rep. Boyer’s bill requires Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse for lactation services in hospitals and in the homes of moms and newborns covered by MaineCare. These lactation services help moms and newborns succeed at breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding provides multiple health benefits. Research shows that breastfeeding is protective against breast and ovarian carcinoma, lowers the risk of postpartum depression and reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes. In fact, leading health organizations including the American Academy of Family Physicians (2014), American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Breastfeeding (2012) and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (2016) recommend six months of exclusive breastfeeding with continued breastfeeding for one year or longer.

On a personal note, as a mom and a relatively new grandmother, I know first-hand how important lactation services are in the early weeks and months as families welcome a newborn and adjust to new feeding, sleeping and diaper changing routines.

I urge committee members to vote ‘Ought To Pass’ on this legislation. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. I’m pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Anne Carney  
State Senator, District 29