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*Testimony of Rep. Jan Dodge 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**  
*Before the Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee*

Good morning, Chair Bailey, Chair Mathieson and esteemed members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Jan Dodge, and I represent House District 39, which includes Belfast, Northport and Belmont.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and thank you to the members of the Commission! I appreciate your work and this bill you have brought forward!

Several Maine communities have experienced the loss of maternity services at their local hospitals. These situations create stress for expecting parents and families.

Reduction in access to services and hospital closures also negatively affect residents' views of their communities, as well as influencing the marketability and growth opportunities for the affected municipality and the surrounding area.

Please pass this bill to ensure that the people of Maine will have at least the notification to allow them to craft appropriate treatment plans and make the hard choices to guarantee their very best birthing preparation, delivery and after care health decisions!

I would strongly urge you to amend the bill to include review by the Commissioner as part of the process. From the beginning, this is about an inverse "certificate of need!"

Thank you for your time. I will try to answer any questions you have.