

Personalized 
Pediatrics of Maine

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April 28, 2021

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

Our business, Personalized Pediatrics of Maine, strongly supports LD 1357, An Act to Require Private Insurance Coverage for Postpartum Care.

Additional support is needed in the postpartum period to ensure that the birthgiver and family are able to thrive. There are innumerable tangible and intangible benefits for this practice to the infant, family and greater community.

For instance, societal monetary cost savings can be substantial if a mother-infant dyad is given the appropriate support in a timely manner to establish and maintain breastfeeding. Here are a few studies that demonstrate these cost-savings.

- Kaiser Permanente's Study on Breastfeeding and Health (data from 1992-1993)

“Infants who were breastfed for a minimum of 6 months experienced \$1,435.00 less health care claims than formula fed infants.”

- [Cost Benefits of Breastfeeding](#) (2005) by Karen M. Zeretzke, MEd, IBCLC

“Total Annual Cost of not Breastfeeding: \$1.186 to \$1.301 Billion”

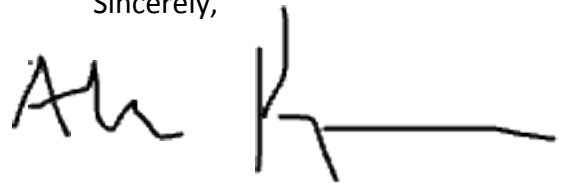
- Bartick M, Reinhold A. [The burden of suboptimal breastfeeding in the United States: a pediatric cost analysis](#). Pediatrics. 2010;125(5):e1048-56.

”Excluding type 2 diabetes (because of insufficient data), we conducted a cost analysis for all pediatric diseases for which the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reported risk ratios that favored breastfeeding: necrotizing enterocolitis, otitis media, gastroenteritis, hospitalization for lower respiratory tract infections, atopic dermatitis, sudden infant death syndrome, childhood asthma, childhood leukemia, type 1 diabetes mellitus, and childhood obesity... **If**

90% of US families could comply with medical recommendations to breastfeed exclusively for 6 months, the United States would save \$13 billion per year and prevent an excess 911 deaths, nearly all of which would be in infants (\$10.5 billion and 741 deaths at 80% compliance)."

Because additional services currently require out of pocket expenditures, many birthing families go without the much-needed support and services that are necessary to acquire long-term birthing rights and benefits. Supporting families means supporting long-term infant health, maternal health and well-being. The individual, family and societal economic benefits are beyond value. The first critical step to a healthy Maine is supporting the health of young families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'A', 'K', and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Ali Kopelman