

Elinor Lisa
North Yarmouth

Dear members of the Health and Human Services Committee;

My name is Elinor Lisa from North Yarmouth Maine. I am in support of LD 85 - An Act Concerning MaineCare Coverage for Donor Breast Milk.

My son Henry was born at Maine Medical Center on January 1st 2016.

He weighed 3 pounds 12 ounces and was born via c-section at almost 36 weeks. He went to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). Henry quickly started a feeding schedule of every 3 hours. I was barely able to pump and provide him the milk he needed and his volume was increasing. After I was discharged from the hospital I would pump every 3 hours and my husband would drive it into the hospital at night. I believe at that time I was only 3 oz of milk ahead of his feeding schedule. I remember my husband saying - there just isn't enough. The Milk Bank was very new then and I am very grateful to a nurse who said "Hey, there is this new program where you can buy pasteurized donor breast milk. This might be a good solution for you."

We bought enough breast milk for 24 hours worth of feedings. This gave me a day to get ahead of Henry's needs and store more milk for him in the fridge. Just 24 hours of donor breast milk eliminated the stress I was feeling for not providing enough. With this elimination of stress I was able to produce more.

This benefit should not only be for those who have financial resources. Let us allow those who need it to be reimbursed for their purchase of donor breast milk. It can help save a family money. It can help keep a family's mind at ease, which is what a young family needs when taking care of their new baby. It is time we put our families first!!

Thank you for your consideration.