

LD 265

An Act To Provide Women Access to Affordable Postpartum Care

Wednesday February 24, 2021

Dr. Isabella Taylor, DO

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and other esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Isabella Taylor, and I am a family medicine resident at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. I completely support this bill not only on behalf of my patients, but also as a new mother myself. Motherhood, especially new motherhood, does not just stop at 60 days. The physical and mental health of these primary care givers continues to evolve, and often leads to concerns that will need to be taken into consideration for the rest of their lives. Mothers often see their Obstetrician 6 weeks post partum and then are left back to their own devices. By extending the length of benefits, we can encourage moms to safely transition back to their primary care doctors to continue to address ongoing and new concerns. These include high blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid dysfunction, breast feeding, contraception and most importantly – mental health.

We need to invest in Maine families, because these mothers cannot take care of their growing children unless they take care of themselves first. Many of our patients who utilize Maine Care are often our most vulnerable populations, and we need to do everything we can to set them up for success. Right now I'm working with a lovely 25 year old mother of 4, who just had her last child 6 months ago. She's going through a lot. She has bizarre breast and chest pain we are trying to get to the bottom too. She has constant anxiety about taking care of her Zoom taught children while trying to support her husband who is battling addiction. She also is considering what type of birth control is best for her so she can focus on her and her current family. These concerns did not stop at 60 days, and they will most certainly continue into the foreseeable future while we work together to figure things out.

As a new mother, I cannot imagine not having access to my doctor. There have been many a night where even as an individual with extensive medical training, I still have needed to talk to my doctor. My hope is all my post-partum patients continue to have access for the very important first year of their infants' lives, to set them up for success for not only themselves, but their loving families.

Thank you.

Dr. Isabella Taylor, DO