

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth Neither For Nor Against LD 2059, “An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth” Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs for MaineHealth, and I am here to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 2059, “An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. MaineHealth providers were alarmed to see that the rate of refusals for vitamin K administration at birth were increasing, and so I would like to thank the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services for its unanimous support of LD 443, “Act to Prevent Vitamin K Deficiency and Eye Damage in Infants,” last session. It is our hope that this legislation will result in greater awareness of the risks associated with refusing vitamin K, and potentially prevent vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB) in Maine newborns.

I would like to share with the Committee that MaineHealth’s Epic reports show parents that deliver a baby within the MaineHealth system refuse the newborn blood spot screening more often than vitamin K administration, and of those that refuse the newborn blood spot screen many also refuse vitamin K. With that said, we have no concerns that combining the refusals on one form will result in more refusals of the newborn blood spot screening. In fact, we believe that combining the refusals on one form will be easier for both parents and providers.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.