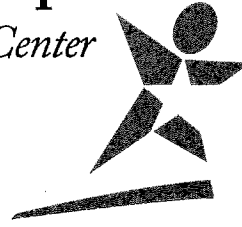


# The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

*At Maine Medical Center*



## **Testimony of Dr. John Bancroft**

*Chief of Pediatrics, The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital*

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

In Strong Support of LD 1685, "An Act to Create The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Registration Plate"

January 9, 2018

Senator Collins, Representative McLean and other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. John Bancroft, Chief of Pediatrics at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, and I am here today to ask for your support of L.D. 1685, "An Act To Create The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Registration Plate." Before I share with you why this license plate is so important to the hospital and the patients we serve, I'd first like to describe for you how The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital cares for children and families from communities throughout the state.

I came to Maine in 1996 as the second children's gastroenterologist in Maine. From the beginning, I understood that my practice would include seeing patients in outreach clinics throughout the state in addition to caring for patients in our Portland facility. Over the years, I've served on the Consulting Medical Staff of St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, and Cary Medical Center in Caribou. Prior to taking on my current responsibilities as Chief of Pediatrics, I traveled to Caribou every six weeks to see children in Aroostook County with gastrointestinal and liver diseases. Now a number of my colleagues at BBCH in almost a dozen pediatric subspecialties carry on this responsibility of providing the best care, as close to home as possible. The physicians and nurses of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital serve children and families from every corner of the state, and regardless of insurance or financial status. In 2016 we recorded just over 100,000 patient encounters in both outpatient settings and in the hospital. 20,000 of those visits served families from outside Cumberland and York Counties, with patients from every county in Maine. Many services provided by The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital are not found at any other hospital in the state, such as care for children's kidney disease, Pediatric Palliative Care, Advanced Cardiology interventions (catheter-based stents and valve repairs), and advanced forms of cancer therapy.

While The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital provides specialized services for patients with high levels of need, we are grateful to the incredible work of primary care providers who support patients in all corners of our rural state. The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital specialists partner with our patients' primary care providers to meet the needs of Maine children as close to home as possible. In fact, we recently developed guidelines for 30 common childhood conditions for primary care providers in an easy-to-use "stop light" format, green- what the primary care provider can do to initiate evaluation and treatment, yellow- warning signs of a more serious condition with guidance on next steps, and instructions for how to call and discuss a case with a specialist,

and red- critical signs or symptoms that should trigger immediate referral to a specialist. These are being disseminated throughout the state through face-to-face visits and are available to anyone on The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital website, [www.bbch.org](http://www.bbch.org).

The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital license plate is important to us for two reasons: first, to raise awareness of the resources available for Maine families through The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Many families don't think about specialized children's health services until they face a crisis. We want more to know that those services are available for them, right here in Maine. The second reason is that philanthropic support is critical for us to continue to enhance the care we provide for children. Recently, we constructed a dedicated pediatric critical care unit. \$2.1 million of the \$3.2 million expense was funded by generous community supporters. This year we are replacing the transport ambulance used to provide mobile critical care for ill newborns and children at community hospitals. The \$420,000 cost is funded entirely by philanthropic support from the community.

A Barbara Bush Children's Hospital license plate will make an important difference in helping our hospital continue to provide state of the art treatment to Maine children in need. The license plate fees will help us to continue our mission to provide access to the highest quality care for the children and families of Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.