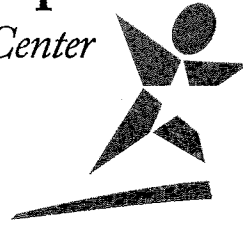


The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

At Maine Medical Center



Testimony of Linda K. Brady

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nurse Manager, 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:

My name is Linda Brady and I am the Nurse Manager in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. I am here today to ask for your support of L.D. 1685, which will provide much needed funding to ensure that we are able to continue serving our state's most vulnerable patients.

I have worked at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital for over 30 years and have had multiple experiences working with various disciplines and community hospitals throughout my career. What I am most proud of over my 30 years in the NICU is the compassion of our nurses; neonatologists, nurse practitioners and respiratory therapists who hold each baby in their hands like it is their own.

The NICU at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital is the largest intensive care unit in the state of Maine. We have 51 beds, 20 "step-down" and 31 intensive care (ICU) beds. As you can see in your information packet, we serve the entire state of Maine with our Neonatal Transport team. We had 930 admissions to the NICU this year and 249 of these were brought to us by our transport team. Using a pediatric ambulance called Angel 1, our team picks up ill children from across Maine, and brings them to the NICU at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital where they receive state-of-the-art neonatal care.

We are extremely proud of our team and most grateful for the monies provided to us from community donations. Thanks to such generous community and business support, we have been able to purchase a new Angel 1 pediatric ambulance every four years, 100 percent paid for with community donations. Our equipment is incredibly expensive, but thanks to community support, such as the funds that would be generated by the BBCH specialty license plate, we are able to provide the best opportunities for our future citizens.

I have witnessed how immensely important our team is to care professionals in community hospitals throughout the state, and every day see the fragile patients transported to the NICU often in a very critical condition (some of them weighing as little as 1 lb). Our patient population consists of 23 weeks gestational age to term patients. These infants are ill and need the expert care that we can provide them. As soon as the baby is medically stable, we transport them back to their home hospital throughout the State.

For example, pictured is a baby that we transported from Farmington in the midst of a snowstorm. We were able to start treatment as soon as possible and bring him back to the NICU. His stay and treatment resulted in a positive outcome with a prognosis of little to no developmental delays. We soon were able to transport him to a community hospital closer to home for the balance of his recovery.

We are now able to care for patients that have suffered a birth anoxia event, which is when a child does not receive sufficient oxygen, requiring the whole body to be cooled. We are able to provide this critical care to infants quickly. Time is of the essence in these situations- the sooner we can get to these babies and initiate the proper care, the greater the chance that the infant will not develop severe brain damage.

I ask you to please support L.D. 1985 because this is about all of us. I certainly hope you never require our help, but rest assured we will be there to provide your loved one with the most compassionate and expert care possible. These babies are too precious to deny them a future.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer questions.

