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February 10, 2023

**AARP Maine Testimony in neither opposed nor in favor of LD 258 An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025**

Greetings Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Bridget Quinn, and I am an Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach with AARP Maine. Today, on behalf of our 200,000 Maine members, I am testifying neither in support or opposed on labor provisions LD 258.

In Maine, 181,000 unpaid family caregivers provide nearly 152 million hours of care.<sup>1</sup> Many of these family caregivers provide support to their loved ones while also juggling a full or part time job. According to an AARP 2020 national survey nearly 61% of family caregivers were also employed during their time as a caregiver. On average, these caregivers worked 35.7 hours a week on top of their caregiving duties. Family care partners who've left work in order to provide care have reported that they left work for reason such as:

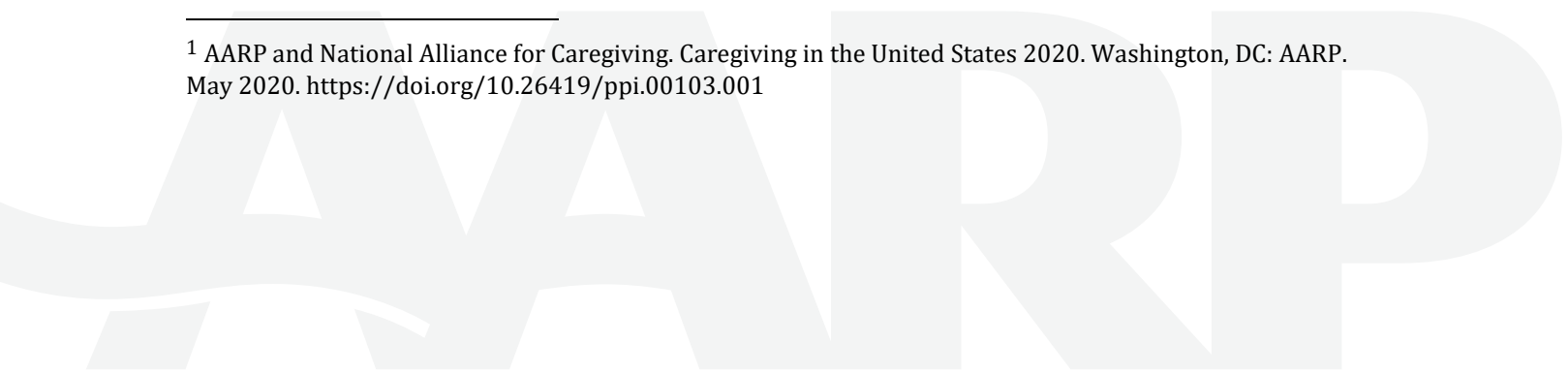
- Needing more time to care for a loved one;
- Not being able to afford to pay for help;
- Being in a job that did not allow flexible work hours; or
- Being in a job that does not allow for time-off with pay

Caring for a loved one should not cost someone their job. Family caregivers are truly the backbone of our long-term care industry. By caring for a loved one Maine's family caregivers delay institutional care and allow individuals to remain at home, where they want to be. Their critical work prevents further burdens on our already stressed long term care industry.

Paid leave benefits would be crucial in helping family caregivers continue to support their loved ones while also protecting their financial security. That is why we urge to set aside

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<sup>1</sup> AARP and National Alliance for Caregiving. Caregiving in the United States 2020. Washington, DC: AARP. May 2020. <https://doi.org/10.26419/ppi.00103.001>



funds in the budget to cover the startup costs to make paid leave a reality for Maine's unpaid family caregivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, if you have questions for me I am available at [bquinn@aarpp.org](mailto:bquinn@aarpp.org).

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