

Meghan Marcous
Auburn
LD 1544

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Taxation Committee: my name is Meghan Marcous, I live in Auburn, and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1544.

I'm a single mom with two kids – Josiah, who's 4, and Samarah, who's 2.

We all know raising children is incredibly expensive, especially with costs rising the way they are right now. I work at a retail store, and I'm working toward a degree right now at Central Maine Community College.

I work hard – at work, at school, and raising my children. And sometimes, it's like the stress of figuring out how to pay the rent and our bills every month is like another job.

I want Josiah and Samarah have a future where they don't have to think that way – that's a big part of why I'm getting my degree. But right now, things are tight.

That's why I'm here testifying in favor of LD 1544. During the pandemic, the expanded Child Tax Credit made such a difference for me and my kids. And we know that programs like the CTC help kids their whole lives – to stay in school, to be healthier, and to have jobs with better salaries when they grow up.

Here in Maine, we have a chance to build on the success of the expanded CTC, by increasing our annual state credit from \$300 to \$350. This bill will also make the state CTC fully refundable, to help families with the lowest incomes to pay the bills, or maybe even afford something more than the absolute minimum.

Increasing the Maine CTC to \$350 and making it fully refundable will help all Maine families – including those who need that help the most. I hope you will support this bill. Thank you for your time.