

Abdikhadar Shire  
Lewiston  
LD 1544

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation: my name is Abdikhadar Shire, I am a resident of Lewiston, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1544.

Just over 2 years ago I founded AK Health and Social Services because I saw that many people in my community were having trouble accessing the basics of life in the United States: Employment. Housing. Healthcare. At AK Health, we offer workforce development, case management, and literacy training, and during the pandemic we expanded into health equity work.

I see in my work every day that our communities need support. The expanded federal Child Tax Credit helped so many of the families we work with, so they could still get by despite the increasing costs of basic needs such as housing, childcare, and food. Making the proposed changes to Maine's child tax credit would raise 3,500 Maine kids above the poverty line. Why wouldn't we make this investment in our future?

As a parent, I don't want to have to choose between important things. For us, the expanded federal CTC helped keep us in our apartment when our rent increased last year. And costs have continued to rise. Lots of families are feeling the pinch.

But one thing all Maine families have in common—no matter what language we speak at home or what meals we put on the table—is a desire to protect our children and provide a secure future for them. Let's pass LD 1544 for all our children and our common future.