

Roxy Kai
Woodstock
LD 1544

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation: my name is Roxy Kai, I am a resident of Woodstock, and I am submitting this testimony today in favor of LD 1544.

When the Child Tax Credit was expanded federally, my family felt so much relief. Pressure was lifted off of us. We had a sense of security knowing that we could 100% pay our bills and not feel panicked. We now have the ability to expand access to the Child Tax Credit in Maine and help so many families like mine.

This past year, my furnace broke. We were without heat in November for a week. Thankfully we weren't in the dead of winter yet, but it was still an expensive and necessary fix. At the same time, the two cars my husband and I used to drive to and from work, to and from doctors appointments, to and from errands both became undriveable. If that wasn't enough, we also lost a significant amount of propane due to a leak at the same time, leaving my family without a stove or oven. What's the saying?: when it rains, it pours! How do you choose what to fix on a limited income? My family lives paycheck to paycheck. More money in our pocket means we can prepare for repairs like these and have a safe environment for my daughter to grow up in.

Increasing the annual state credit from \$300 to \$350 and making it fully refundable will help so many families like my own. I want to provide the best life for my daughter and having more money in my family's pocket can make that future a possibility. I know I am not alone in this, there are so many other parents who feel the same.

My daughter turned ten years old this year. She attends the public school just down the street. I live in a rural area of the state and need to drive for some time to get us to our doctors appointments, to work, to go grocery shopping, and more. Just like so many other parents, I want to provide so much for my daughter. Expanding the Child Tax Credit here in Maine will help move us towards a future where children are strongly supportive. Please join me in supporting LD 1544.