

Sharon Carter
Lewiston
LD 1544

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation: My name is Sharon Carter, and I'm a parent and a grandparent from Lewiston. In the past, my husband and I have also been foster parents. I am writing in support of LD 1544.

I urge Maine's legislature to pass and fund LD 1544 – which will make Maine's Child Tax Credit available to everyone, even our families with the lowest incomes, and increase it to \$350.

My husband Chuck and I have adopted two kids. We do what we can to help our kids have a normal childhood, even if they had a difficult start in life.

One of our children was diagnosed with autism last year, and we're working to make sure he has the structure and support he needs to thrive.

I was also diagnosed with cancer in 2021 and am undergoing treatment. Cancer is scary for families, but we're all staying positive.

I share all this because I want you to understand that our family is resilient. And I want you to understand that the Child Tax Credit makes our families and our communities MORE resilient – especially now, with costs rising all the time.

We're lucky that we can meet our kids' basic needs. But the expanded federal CTC in 2021 allowed us to go further. We were able to open up a savings account for the kids' education needs, buy a computer for our son, and send our daughter to camp in the summer.

LD 1544 in Maine will make sure that families of all shapes and sizes who need a little extra boost can receive it – three hundred fifty dollars a year, no matter how low their incomes are.

That extra cash makes a big difference – and research has shown that programs like the expanded CTC help kids their whole lives. They stay in school longer, they're healthier, and they have higher salaries as adults.

I ask you to please support LD 1544. For Maine's families. Thank you.