

**Testimony In Support of LD 1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the
Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program**

Jaime George, MA, DVM
Windham, Maine
May 22, 2023

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Jaime George and I live in Windham. I am here today in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

As a new mother, aunt, sister, and friend, there is nothing more important to a baby or a family than quality time together. I personally had to recover from an unplanned C-section while caring for and learning about my newborn. I was fortunate that my spouse had paid family leave. Whereas, I had unpaid leave as an independent contractor (relief veterinarian). Without my partner and his paid leave, I would've been recovering and caring for our daughter alone and unpaid. Or I may have had to go back to work sooner and put my daughter into daycare.

It is so important for parents and children to have as much time together as possible. That time is best if the parents can have some financial support. Daycare options are getting harder to come by and more expensive is available at all.

If there is paid leave, moms like me, but also moms without support in their own homes, will have just slightly more financial support and time off. This is so crucial for the first few months at the very least, if we want to have healthy and happy families and children.

We hope you will support LD 1964. Thank you for listening, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Jaime George, MA, DVM