

Jennifer Waterman
Yarmouth, Maine
LD 1964

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

Jennifer Waterman
Yarmouth, Maine
May 25, 2023

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

My name is Jennifer Waterman and I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I am testifying in
support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

As a small business owner of a private clinical mental health practice, I am not only
one of Maine's essential service providers, I also do not get paid if I do not see my
clients. When caring for my dying mother recently, I was unable to take the time off I
needed to care for her. I could not afford to lose my income...and the care she
needed was unavailable from health services. The anguish and pain of this
predicament haunts me. The financial costs continue to burden me.

Where our health care systems, including child care and elder care, routinely fail us,
we as individuals have been forced to bear the financial and emotional cost of caring
for ourselves and our loved ones. This is an impossible task that leaves us with
financial crisis and health crisis.

If I had access to Maine State paid family medical leave in the time leading up to my
mother's passing, she could have passed with the dignity and care we each deserve. I
would have avoided incurring debt, which has been a struggle to pay off.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Waterman