

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 25, 2025

Re: LD 1294, An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and Honorable Members of the Joint
Taxation Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1294.

This bill helps our more vulnerable Maine children and their families by expanding the dependent exemption tax credit by doubling the credit to \$600 for dependents not yet 6 years old before the end of the taxable year and amends phase-out provisions based on the filer's status.

The child tax credit helps low to moderate income families raise children in these costly times. I still remember the times I struggled with young children keeping them in shoes a size too small or having turning milk or hoping my car would keep on going. Every penny counted. The child tax credit particularly helps lower income earners meet family needs despite the impact of the cost of living on them and helps these families' children escape childhood poverty. These are difficult times for poor and working-class children. Families are falling further and further behind.

Notably, people of color, and rural families experience higher rates of poverty. Thus, the child tax credit addresses rural and racial equity issues.

<https://www.mecep.org/blog/the-child-tax-credit-an-explainer/>

I am proud of Maine for having its own child tax credit. We are a state that cares deeply about all our residents. We know that helping families escape poverty and have some semblance of economic security allows them some breathing room to pay for food and pay for household expenses. Giving families breathing room pays off in dividends by ensuring the children have the mental and/or physical resources to succeed.

<https://www.mecep.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/How-the-Child-Tax-Credit-was-spent-in-Maine.pdf>

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1294.

Anne Gallaudet,
Scarborough, ME