

Ann Dodd-Collins  
Portland  
LD 1294

Dear Senator Nicole Grohoski, Representative Kristen Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Ann Dodd-Collins. I live in Portland, and I am writing in support of LD 1294, “An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit”.

In 2023, 12.6% of Maine kids lived in poverty. The Dependent Exemption Tax Credit (DETC) helps families with kids or dependent adults pay for what they need. LD 1294 would double the current tax credit. It would provide an additional \$300 for dependents under age 6, and it would be more targeted to families with low and middle income. Importantly, the proposal is revenue neutral because it pays for itself by phasing out the benefit for Maine’s highest earners who need the support less.

Many families in Maine struggle to afford basic needs like food, rent, fuel, and child care. Although my youngest child is 41 years old, I remember the struggle to meet my family’s needs. I became an expert at “robbing Peter to pay Paul”. I paid my mortgage late one month, another month the payment to CMP was late. And almost every month I had to use my credit card to cover some unexpected expense. But we survived. It’s much harder for families today. Wages have not kept up with inflation and the price of basic necessities has skyrocketed.

Helping families in Maine who are struggling to afford basic needs like food, rent, fuel, and child care creates a better future for everyone. I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1294.