

Raychel Ward
Livermore falls
LD 1060

Hello,

I am Raychel Ward a Maine State Parent Ambassador Alumni from Livermore Falls Maine.

Being a parent in Maine is hard. Really hard. It seems like every system that is meant to help us fails us and our children. Sometimes we do not know where else to turn. Sometimes we really need support and understanding to help us parent our children despite the challenges of finding proper childcare, protecting our children from dangerous people, sometimes even their relatives. Sometimes we just need someone to listen and actually understand. It can be hard to know what resources we have available to us. Bethereforme.org has been so helpful in not only providing support but making it easier to find the resources we need.

It is important to normalize the fact that parents need support. It has been proven that well supported parents are less likely to abuse or neglect their children. In a state where our child protective services system has been failing for decades I cannot think of a reason more worth of funding and working towards having well supported parents.

It is hard to ask for help because sometimes were afraid of the system because we have been the subject of unwarranted investigations. We need to be able to ask for help without fear of being subjected to suspicion that we have caused harm or will cause harm to our children. It is hard to find help because our many systems (Healthcare, mental health, children's behavioral health, special education, ect.) are already so taxed and heavily burdened it seems futile to keep trying. However, stopping is not an option if we want the best outcomes for our families.

Be There For ME needs to be supported. Be There For ME is a resource that parents who are scared to ask for help are more likely to use because it is self service and user friendly. It connects us to other parents and services that support us and makes our communities better supported and stranger. It has been my honor to be a part of the campaign and support of parents all over the state of Maine in their parenting journey. Like any parent my goal is stable supported families and to promote the best outcomes for our children.

Please vote ought to pass on LD1060