

Naneen Chace-Ortiz Westbrook, ME

LD 1294 - An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit - IN FAVOR

Dear Members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Naneen Chace-Ortiz, a nurse and Unitarian Universalist living in Westbrook. My values as a healthcare professional and community member lead me to deeply care about the well-being and inherent worth of every person.

Many Maine families are struggling to afford essential needs like food, housing, fuel, and child care. In 2023, over 12% of Maine children lived in poverty. We must work together to help these families thrive, not just survive.

LD 1294 offers a crucial step forward by:

- **Increasing Maine's child tax credit:** It would double the current credit from \$300 to \$600 annually for children under six in families with a joint income below \$150,000.
- **Providing partial credit for higher earners:** Families earning above this threshold may still be eligible for a reduced credit.
- **Ensuring fiscal responsibility:** The increased benefit for low- and middle-income families is funded by gradually reducing the credit for higher-income earners.
- **Investing in Maine's future:** By supporting families now, we create a stronger foundation for everyone. Research indicates that every dollar invested in the federal child tax credit generates a \$10 return to the economy.

Thank you for considering this vital issue. I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1294.

Sincerely,

Naneen Chace-Ortiz, MSN, RN

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LD 1294

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