

## Testimonial for LD1294 (Maine CTC/DETC)

Thank you, Senator Grohowski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Meghann Carrasco, and I am writing in support of LD 1294, "An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit." This proposed bill represents a critical opportunity to directly support working families in Maine.

LD 1294 proposes a \$300 tax credit for families earning less than \$150,000 per year for each dependent child under the age of six. This bill is targeting specific support for low and middle income families without costing the state additional money.

I am a founder of a nonprofit childcare center in Gorham, Maine and a mother of two boys. I work with families of all socioeconomic backgrounds and we specifically work hard to support our families to help access important programs to buffer the cost of living while raising families. I know this tax credit would be crucial in helping many people make ends meet and support their bottom lines.

As a parent and working Mainer, I have felt the effects of the cost of living increases. This tax credit would have a great impact working families across Maine. In 2023, 12.6% of Maine's children lived in poverty, and many families are struggling to afford food, rent, fuel, and childcare. This is where the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit comes in—it's money that parents and caregivers can use for whatever their family needs most, whether that's paying for doctor visits, car repairs, rent, or even just keeping the lights on.

Investing in Maine's child tax credit isn't just a win for families today—it's a smart long-term investment in our future. Studies show that for every \$1 spent on the federal child tax credit (of which the DETC is Maine's version), \$10 is returned to the economy. Helping families now will contribute to a stronger, more stable future for everyone in Maine.

This would not be a "hand out", but an investment in our state's working families. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1294 and show your constituents that you recognize the struggles we are facing and that you care enough to act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Meghann Carrasco  
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