

David Motel
Maine State Parent Ambassadors
LD 1294

Distinguished members of the committee,

I am writing to you today in strong support of the proposed legislation, LD 1294, which seeks to amend the Maine Resident Taxpayer Dependent Credit in a way that meaningfully benefits Maine families, particularly those raising young children.

This bill introduces crucial changes that will have a significant positive impact on families across the state. By expanding the dependent exemption tax credit, it directly addresses the financial challenges faced by parents and caregivers, ensuring that Maine's tax system becomes more equitable and supportive for working families. Increasing the credit from \$300 to \$600 for each dependent under the age of 6 by the end of the tax year recognizes the heightened financial demands that come with caring for young children. Expenses such as childcare, medical care, and daily essentials that can stretch household budgets. When people are struggling to survive, they can make choices that aren't beneficial. Any boost in the other direction alleviates that strain.

The bill revises the income phase-out structure, adjusting thresholds to more accurately reflect the financial realities of households at different income levels. These changes ensure that the credit remains accessible to a broader range of families, while still maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I want to underscore how much this legislation matters, not just in theory, but in real life. I know friends and family for whom a few hundred dollars can make a world of difference—money that could help cover groceries, a heating bill, or a childcare payment. For these families, this isn't about tax policy; it's about basic security and peace of mind. Meanwhile, for individuals and households in higher socioeconomic brackets, this amount may be brushed off as little more than a rounding error—barely a blip on a financial statement. The disparity is stark, and this bill goes a long way in leveling the playing field.

The intent behind these changes is clear: to offer greater support to Maine families with dependents, to make our state a more attractive place to raise children, and to shape a fairer tax environment where all families—regardless of income—have the opportunity to thrive.

As we all know, families with young children are the backbone of our communities and our future workforce. Investing in their stability and well-being now helps secure a stronger, more prosperous Maine for generations to come.

I urge the committee to support this legislation. LD 1294 is a practical, compassionate, and forward-thinking step toward economic justice for Maine families. Thank you for your time and consideration. I fully support LD 1294 and encourage its swift passage.

Sincerely,

David Motel
Maine State Parent Ambassador