

April 21, 2025

Committee on Labor
132nd Legislature
Cross Building, Room 302
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator Mike Tipping, Rep Amy Roeder & Committee Members:

I am writing in support of exempting public school districts from the Paid and Family Medical Leave Benefits program as outlined in L.D. 1400.

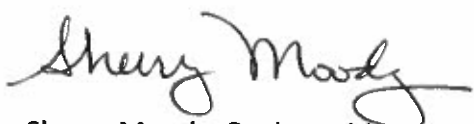
As a Business Manager in a school, the PFML law has affected our school in multiple ways. First, it has forced us to deduct a tax from employees who are already well covered by our sick and personal leave policies. Our current negotiated agreement with our staff (teachers, educational technicians, custodians, food service staff) offers paid sick leave. Our staff can accumulate up to 183 sick days per our contract. If a staff member does not have enough sick leave to cover their illness, a sick bank is also available to them for up to 45 days.

We are also forced to make a deduction from very part-time workers like our Adult Education staff who would not be eligible (under current guidelines) to request a leave of absence from our school. I have also heard from a number of other Business Managers in our state who face the same dilemma with part-time or short-term employees.

It is my belief that the PFML law, as written, should never have been implemented in this manner in Maine. Many states do offer a paid family medical leave benefit (optional) to employees. I applaud any effort to allow a paid leave benefit for an uncovered employee but this tax should be elected and not forced upon our workers. School employees are already well covered by their negotiated agreements in the State of Maine.

I also feel that the PFML law should be repealed and the Legislature needs to "start over" in their effort to give such a benefit statewide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sherry Moody". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sherry" and last name "Moody" clearly distinguishable.

Sherry Moody, Business Manager
Mid-Coast School of Technology