

Nina Earley
Bangor
LD 539

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Honorable Members of the Labor Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Nina Earley and I'm a resident of Bangor. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, especially LD406, LD539, and LD1273.

When I gave birth the first time I was an independent contractor and while I was able to work extra hours during my pregnancy to save money to take some leave, I was only able to take 6 weeks fully off from my job. As you may know, it takes some bodies longer than that to recover from giving birth, in fact, some women still bleed at six weeks, and most are far from being able to sleep through the night with a six-week old baby. I have since switched jobs to a company that has been paying into Maine PFML since January, and as my first child is nearing public school age (therefore reducing daycare cost), and my body is nearing menopause, I am hopeful that I can have a second child, but I don't have the luxury of time. Maine PFML is one very crucial part of my decision to try having a second child. I value my work, and I want to show up fully when I return from parental leave the second time, and I know that will be more likely if I have access to 12 weeks of paid leave through Maine PFML. I strongly believe that Paid Family Medical Leave makes our state better and that ensuring the program is allowed to move forward as planned and scheduled will make our state more attractive to young workers who will raise their families here.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!