

Erin Arneson
Topsham
LD 539

Erin Arneson
Topsham, Maine
April 22, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Erin Arneson, I'm a resident of Topsham, and am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today to repeal or remove rights to Paid Family Medical Leave.

I had my first child in 2023 and was fortunate to have worked at my employer for long enough to accrue sick leave to take 3 months off to care for my newborn. This is often not the case for many working parents. And this would not have been the case if I hadn't first invested 7 years of time to accrue sufficient leave.

I plan to have a second child in 2026. I have been timing the second child with the passing of Paid Family Medical Leave's benefits kicking in. I no longer have enough sick time accrued to take sick leave for the second child, and honestly would like to use sick leave for when I'm actually sick (which raising a child is almost once a month).

Not having access to PFML would make me reconsider having a second child. I don't want to quit working. But I know that I need to be there for those first few months to nurse and give my child everything.

When this act passed, I told all my friends from across the country that they should consider moving to Maine because of the great benefit we are about to have. We need young people here to keep our economy alive and keep our aging population safe. Removing rights that young parents needs is just further setting the state behind the curve on modern living.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on this bill and the others that remove this vital service.

Thank you,
Erin Arneson