

Patrick Milligan
farmington
LD 539

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Labor Committee, my name is Patrick Milligan, I live in Farmington, and I'm submitting this testimony in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am an independent contractor working with multiple organizations and individuals at any given time. In 2022, I slipped and fell down some stairs, breaking my wrist. I had to wait a week for surgery, which meant I was just hanging out with some shattered bones for that time. Surgery meant I had metal put into my bones to put them back into the right place. After surgery, my arm was in a cast for six weeks to fully recover, and now I have a scar that runs from my palm to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up my forearm.

Because I work independently, this meant I would be without income unless I forced myself to work. Obviously I was in significant pain, especially during the week before I was able to get into surgery. Could you focus on work with shattered bones in your forearm? Or when your dominant arm is in a cast or a sling?

We didn't have a statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave program so I was simply without a steady income during this time. Being an independent contractor already puts my income in flux at any given time, since I need to find work at any given time.

We should not delay the implementation of Maine's PFML program in any way. Maine workers need a strong, solid program now. These programs work in other states, and it's time for our state to stand up for all workers. Our state is stronger when all workers have access to a paid leave program, including seasonal workers, agricultural workers, and those who are self-employed.

I know that if paid leave had been in place when I broke my arm, I would have been set up for success. I am not alone in my situation. We need to keep a comprehensive PFML program here in Maine. Please vote "ought not to pass" on these bills.

Thank you.