

Testimony in Opposition to LD406, LD539 & LD1273

Lauren Jacobs
Old Town, Maine
April 23, 2025

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Labor Committee,

My name is Lauren Jacobs and I live in Old Town. I am writing in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine, and in opposition to the bills before the committee today.

In this testimony I could go into details about the numerous ways paid family and medical leave has impacted my life. How, as a teenager, my dad took time off work to care for my mom as she faced treatment for cancer and then, months later, to be with her in her final days. Or how, as a newlywed and young adult, my husband had to go through surgery and chemotherapy and because he had just started a new job, he didn't have enough sick time earned. Or, I could tell you how my husband later had to take time off to care for me, as I recovered from a major surgery for an exceedingly rare condition.

I could go into details on all of these, and tell you more about how lucky we were to have paid time off (when we had it) even when we weren't lucky with the medical diagnoses. But, to be honest, the details don't matter. Because we have all, all of us, been in situations like these – either due to our own medical issues, or the medical issues of our loved ones, or both.

Having a paid family and medical leave program is something that is just, humane, and caring, and repealing or rolling back the PFML program – which 70% of Mainers support – is the opposite of those things. The PFML will keep Mainers in the workforce and contributing to the economy and will help increase lifetime earnings and social security contributions. Paid family and medical leave improves health outcomes – especially in rural areas – which is, of course, good for people and the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills that seek to repeal or weaken the Paid Family Medical Leave program.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Jacobs