

Karina Napier
Portland, Maine
April 23, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Karina Napier, I’m a resident of Portland, and I am here on behalf of myself and families with new children everywhere.

I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am a self-employed Mainer with a two-and-a-half-year-old.

I’m not writing today with the notion that self-employed people will benefit from PFML. I’m writing because I was able to experience, firsthand, what it's like to have the time to spend with my newborn and how important this is.

While pregnant, approaching maternity leave without any support was daunting. I knew I had to save at least three months' worth of living expenses to take time off and spend these crucial months with my daughter.

I’m so glad I did. Those first three months of my daughter’s life and my experience as a new mom were not only critical but also the best months of my life. I nursed and cared for my child, creating a bond with her that will last the rest of our lives; fully preparing us emotionally, mentally, and physically for the time when I would return to work.

The additional fortune of my time off was that we hadn’t found childcare. Upon learning we were having a baby, we had immediately signed up for more than a dozen childcare lists but had not been accepted anywhere - the number of families waiting before us was too great.

Meanwhile, I had a neighbor who had given birth two weeks before me. At her job, she didn’t have the time off that I did. She stopped nursing her baby when she returned to work, expressing her deep-seated resentment for not being able to be there for her child during this initial bonding phase. The struggle of weaning her child, not being the one to feed her, to hold her, and to reassure her, weighed heavily on this mom.

And I haven’t even mentioned the dads. My partner didn’t have paid paternity leave. Her partner received a week or two. The dads are hardly present, nearly eliminating them from the picture at the onset, while indirectly placing the duties solely on the mother.

We need support. This is the opportunity to support families. Maine needs families! We need growth and youth! This is how you support the people who make that happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills.

Thank you,
Karina Napier

Karina Napier-Anderson
Portland
LD 406

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