

Lucy Parker
Portland Maine
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My name is Lucy Parker, and I am a resident of Portland, Maine, as well as a new mother to a delightful 11-month-old. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to the bills before the committee today.

Mainers overwhelmingly support our Paid Family and Medical Leave policy. The bills under consideration either seek to repeal the program entirely or introduce harmful carve-outs and delays.

I gave birth to my daughter last May and was fortunate to receive short-term disability benefits to recover from childbirth, along with additional parental leave to bond with and care for my newborn. I cannot imagine not having leave during those critical first three months, often referred to as the "fourth trimester," when newborns are still highly dependent on their parents as they adjust to the world outside the womb. Although my recovery was relatively smooth, I still faced some complications as I healed physically. I am immensely grateful for the leave provided by my employer, and I firmly believe that we, as a society, owe it to all parents to ensure they have access to this leave. It is essential for recovering from a major medical event like childbirth and for caring for their loved ones, whether it be a newborn or another family member.

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!