

April 23,2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Honorable members of the Labor committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my views regarding my opposition to bills LD406, LD539, LD1273, LD 952, LD1400, LD894, LD1333, LD1712, LD1169, LD1307, LD 1712 & LD1249. These bills are attempting to roll back or weaken the current Paid Family Medical Leave (Hereto will be referred to as PFML) before it has even started. My name is Christine Cattan, I reside in Eddington, Maine. I am a Long-Term Care Pharmacist with a specialty in Geriatrics. As someone who directly works in healthcare, I know all too well how devastating an acute illness or the worsening of a chronic illness can be for a family. I have seen family members trying desperately to help a parent with dementia have significant delays because they cannot take the time they need to help their loved ones. Dementia and Alzheimer's are insidious diseases that can be presented differently in each patient. Sometimes it is slow progression, sometimes it is a rapid progression. In fact, most disease states will follow a unique trajectory to the patient, healthcare can never be a one size fits all approach. The goals and benefits of PFML are the benefits of "trickledown economics" we were all told about but have yet to experience any benefit from. This program would directly benefit the working class of this state and has affordable rates set at 0.5% or 1% of an employee's wages. The size of the company has already been factored into this program. Honestly, is it not time to stop tax breaks for businesses that are not required to improve the state of their workers and high time to invest in the workers of Maine? Paid leave keeps people employed. I work in an independent pharmacy and employ 5 pharmacists and about 40 technicians. Employee turnover is a huge issue and while we do offer both short- and long-term disability for all our employees it is an expensive benefit and often cost prohibitive of some employees. A State paid program allows us to compete with larger company's offerings. Last year I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, I had two surgeries, chemotherapy and other treatments over about a nine-month period. I was thankful for the short-term disability I had opted for. I worked much of this time only taking a short time to recover post the 2 needed surgeries. Even in my two-income household this could have been catastrophic to lose income during this time. In this state no one should lose their employment from a true medical condition.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this perspective with this Committee. I strongly urge you to vote "Ought not to pass on these bills"

Many Thanks.

Respectfully,

Christine Cattan R.Ph.