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I am an independent voter, a lifelong resident of Maine, a hunter and fisherwoman, a teacher, a young mother, and an avid supporting of Paid Family and Medical Leave for all. I want this opportunity for all families, but the real impact is personal and immediate.

I am currently deciding whether or not to have a second child and whether we retain or gut this program will likely determine whether I am willing to go through the pregnancy and postpartum experience again. Without PFML my childbearing is over. With it, I would likely choose to have one or two more children. Even a delay in the program may result in my choosing not to further procreate (as I don't want to have children beyond a certain age). I hope lawmakers will see the importance of supporting our family and those like us.