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## **Kelly Noonan Murphy**

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*Testimony of Rep. Kelly Noonan Murphy introducing*  
**LD 999, An Act to Support Family Caregivers by Expanding Family Medical Leave**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Kelly Noonan Murphy and I proudly represent House District 125, which is part of Scarborough. I come before you to present LD 999, An Act to Support Family Caregivers by Expanding Family Medical Leave for your consideration.

LD 999 would expand existing family medical leave law by adding grandparents and great-grandparents to the Maine Family Medical Leave Act where an employee is eligible to take family medical leave. In addition, it also provides that an employee may take family medical leave for any of the persons listed with a serious health condition who are related to the employee whether it is by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage or domestic partnership.

My husband Jack and I both grew up in Scarborough. We left Maine for college and graduate school but were fortunate enough to return to Scarborough and buy the house Jack grew up in when we were starting our own family. We lived on the same street with his parents, grandparents and an aunt and uncle. We could not have asked for a better outcome in being so close to our family.

Unfortunately when Jack's grandfather, Dick, was nearing the end of his life in 2006, Dick's children were still in their prime working years, and his grandchildren were also working while caring for his very young great grandchildren. His medical needs were more than any of us could manage on our own. Luckily Dick was a Veteran and was able to move into the Maine Veterans' Home right in the center of Scarborough. He received the skilled medical care he required and we were all able to visit frequently after work and on the weekends.

The situation however was different when Jack's grandmother (Dick's wife) Anne was sick and dying at age 95 in 2021. Despite a worldwide pandemic, Anne was able to stay in her own home until her death. Her final wish became reality because her family was in a better position 15 years later to care for her. Without nearly full time care from Anne's surviving children, and especially from her son and daughters in law, grandchildren and their spouses, she too would have been moved to a facility. It was a gift that Anne was able to spend her final days surrounded by her dear family in the home that she loved.

I share this personal story because my family was lucky to have the support systems to care for my loved ones, but having the care and support of family when one is sick or dying shouldn't be based on the luck of timing, geography, or privilege. Our laws need to reflect the realities Maine families are facing today and this legislation will continue to close the gap by including other loved ones we treasure and cherish like our grandparents and great-grandparents.

I urge the committee to recommend an "Ought to Pass" report on LD 999. Thank you for your time this afternoon and I would be happy to answer any questions you have for me.