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## **Testimony of Mike Roland, Bureau of Labor Standards Maine Department of Labor**

### **Neither For nor Against LD 999**

To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
Public Hearing, March 30, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. I'm Mike Roland, Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards at the Maine Department of Labor. I'm here today to testify in neither for nor against LD 999 An Act to Support Family Caregivers by Expanding Family Medical Leave.

This bill expands the protections provided to workers by including grandparents and great-grandparents with a serious health condition among the persons for the care of whom a covered employee can take family medical leave under subchapter 6-A; and by specifying that they may be related to the employee by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage or domestic partnership.

The Department has no concerns regarding these amendments and, as enforcement of this chapter is entirely by private action and not within the authority of the Department, we would require no additional resources as a result. We did, however, see a noticeable increase in inquiries about FML when the definition was expanded in 2021 to include grandchildren, so we anticipate a similar increase were LD 999 to be enacted.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have now or at a future work session.

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.