

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

My name is Flavia DeBrito, I am a resident of Waterville, and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1544. Tax credits like the Child Tax Credit that target relief to low-income families make a huge difference for our future, our children.

What would this mean to my kids?

This would help me pay for Mady's music lessons that she has been asking me for.

This would help pay for Bella's math tutoring we started at the beginning of the year and had to stop because it got too expensive.

This would help pay for Anthony's soccer equipment and summer camp.

I'm a single mom who has worked two jobs to help provide for my kids. This past year has not been easy on us like many other Mainers with children with the cost of everything from rent to food to gas. I bettered myself, went to college, got a career job and still can't make ends meet for my kids. It's sad to say that the tax credit at the end of the year is what we look for every year to celebrate in our family. When spring comes around the kids are excited because they understand that I will have extra income coming in, extra money for summer camp, or music lessons, or even a new pair of glasses. Sometimes I feel like a failure because they see me going to work all the time and barely any time to spend with them and can't even provide for them what they deserve. LD1544-would be able to help me provide these services to my children once a year, it may not mean a lot to others but to my family, this is a big deal. It is a big deal because it helps boost my self-confidence and my ability to go to work and knowing that little by little I'm getting ahead. I'm here today to urge you all to pass LD1544 to help build success for our Maine children. Every child deserves this opportunity no matter their parent's current situation. LD1544 in Maine would help so many parents like me, that little boost that would come at just the right time- three hundred fifty dollars a year may not be a lot, but it would make a big difference in a child's family.