



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Morgan Rielly

16 Blue Spruce Farm Road, Apt #6

Westbrook, ME 04092

Phone: (207) 228-5767

Morgan.Rielly@legislature.maine.gov

May 25, 2023

Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in support of
LD 1964, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here today to ~~present~~^{support} **LD 1964, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program."**

As a Mainer in their twenties, I hope to someday in the future to start a family here in Maine. And, representing a thriving district that has attracted many young people who call it home, I've heard repeatedly from constituents about the need for paid family and medical leave. There are many obstacles facing Maine's families, especially those who are just starting new families. A paid family and medical leave benefits program would be absolutely helpful, whether that is supporting a family member who is in hospice, a spouse who is transitioning back from their service in the armed forces, or a grandchild who is in recovery from substance use disorder. These are challenges that all families in Maine face, including those in the room today. We must join neighboring states in passing **LD 1964**, which a majority of Mainers support.

I'm grateful for the hard work that Senator Daughtry, Representative Cloutier, and the Commission have taken in crafting this landmark piece of legislation. Senator Daughtry and Representative Cloutier have listened to hundreds of businesses, organizations, and individuals from across the state. This bill represents what Maine's people and businesses want and need.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I urge this committee to please vote ought to pass **LD 1964**.