

Ari Meil
Camden
May 24, 2023

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Ari Meil and I live in Camden. I'm testifying in support of LD 1964, in favor of paid leave for Maine's workers. I am part owner of Naretiv, a design firm which employs four people in Maine. My employees are the absolute core of my business. Their health and well-being has an enormous impact on my bottom line every day.

Paid family leave is important to me and my employees for so many reasons. The most important is the peace of mind knowing that during a significant event we can safely and without worry take the time we need, whether it is an emergency, or a meaningful milestone in our or our family's lives. But just as important to me as a business owner is the mental and physical health of my staff. I need to be able to count on them giving me their best work. And they can only do that when they are able to take the time they need to focus on themselves and their families.

At Naretiv, we feel so strongly about the importance of paid leave, that we have an unlimited paid time off policy for all employees. Never once has anyone abused the privilege. But everyday I reap the benefits of a staff that is dedicated and passionate about our company. My staff feel respected and cared for, they stick around, and they go above and beyond on a daily basis. Every business owner in Maine, no matter how small, should be able to reap these benefits, and LD 1964 would help them do so.

I am very sensitive to the fact that not everyone could implement a policy like ours. Which is why this bill is so important. I know that paid time off for Maine's workers will translate into a happier more productive and dedicated work force.

Thank you, and I urge you to support LD 1964.

Ari Meil