

May 25, 2023

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Rosie Ankhartz, and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist in Portland. Today I am here in support of paid family and medical leave.

I moved to Maine in 2018. During the pandemic, my husband and I each earned master's degrees. Both of our parents are in Maine. We are eager to continue to grow the roots we have here.

Now ready to have a child, we are seriously considering relocating to another state in New England that actively supports young families. We love it here, but so few Speech-Language Pathology jobs in Maine offer paid family leave.

It's frightening to think about what would happen if I had a difficult pregnancy, delivery, or a child with medical needs. I would be unable to be strong in my commitment to a job while being responsible for my family.

I urge you to support LD 1964. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for considering this vital legislation,

Rosie Ankhartz
Portland, ME