

To: Senator Mike Tipping, Representative Amy Roeder and members of the Labor Committee

From: Steve DiMillo
DiMillo's On the Water
Portland, ME 04101

May 25, 2023

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. My name is Steve DiMillo and I represent my family and staff at DiMillo's On the Water in Portland. Although I feel this is meaningful legislation, I'm here today to speak in opposition to LD 1964 as written. The cost to business couldn't come at a worse time as we are struggling to get back on our feet both financially and to build sufficient levels of staffing. We currently employ 114 workers, down from 200 pre-pandemic. Our business decreased by 50% after one year of being shut down but we are gaining ground and hope to be at 75% in the coming years. We care deeply for our employees, which is why most of them stay with us for many years. Worker shortages are real. You see it everywhere you go, your favorite corner store and the restaurants you enjoy. We have worked out staffing deficiencies as best we can but staff being out for long periods of time is devastating to most small businesses. There just isn't anyone else to do the work. Our industry has been hit hard and we all look forward to better days when we have enough workers to perform the tasks so we can employ more people, add to the economic vibrancy in our communities and improve our operations.

One of my concerns is the broad definition of "family relationship" and that it appears to be very subjective. I know that the definition of a typical family has changed over the years, but I do feel that the language in this bill should be tightened up a bit. Where do we draw the line of reasons for using this benefit? Maybe "immediate family members" should be included in the definition?

This is a very expensive program with rich benefits. I fear the tax on employers will start at one rate and will increase as claims are paid and the administration grows. This is an expense our family business is not ready to be saddled with. Considering the workers shortage and the other prime costs we have seen; I fear some restaurants will just close their doors as this may be the last straw. There is a limit to how much one will pay for a bowl of chowder and a beer. Please consider this in your deliberations.

Thank you again. I'm available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Steve DiMillo