

Sen. Grohoski, Rep. Cloutier, and honorable committee members, my name is Jeffrey Adams, I live in Lewiston, and I am here to speak in support of LD 1294, expanding Maine's Dependent Exemption Tax Credit.

One in eight Maine kids lives in poverty. I know what that's like. When I was being raised by a single mom in Mississippi, I did without so many things. I know I want better for my own kids.

Last year I gained custody of my five-year-old daughter. After some rocky times earlier in her life, she's doing well now and her world is opening up. She's enrolled in kindergarten and is trying out soccer and basketball. There's so much more she would love to explore that financially I'm not equipped to take on. My income goes toward everyday costs such as rent, childcare, food, and clothes. With a little extra income I could be thinking about after-school enrichment programs or gymnastics.

I've seen what it looks like when parents DON'T have support. When I think back to those poor days in Mississippi... I don't know why anyone would want us to live like that. Our kids are going to be the future; they don't need to suffer what I suffered 40 years ago.

I want my kids to have a brighter future and a better today than what I've experienced. When I was growing up, I was lucky that my friends' parents came through for me sometimes. One way or another, we have to find ways to look out for each other—and helping out our youngest kids lets everyone benefit.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1294. It's the right thing to do for our kids. Thank you for your time.