

Siiri Cressey

Lewiston

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Labor Committee: My name is Siiri Cressey. I am a resident of Lewiston.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you all in opposition to attempts to reduce or repeal statewide paid family and medical leave.

Roughly ten percent of Mainers live in poverty. I believe these bills target low-wage workers, the people who need this type of paid leave the most. People like my sister, who counts herself very lucky to have an employer which allowed her time off last summer to help care for our mother while she was dying. Many people do not have any assurance that they will even have a paying job if they leave to take on such a responsibility, and it is a heartbreaking decision nobody should have to make. Especially people who are poor.

I believe that most, if not all, of the government budget cuts being made locally and nationally are intended to harm and deprive poor and working class people, to the benefit of the very wealthy. The rich do not need more. They have enough. The paid family and medical leave policy costs employers AND employees so very little in the grand scheme of things, and we will all benefit. Please let this policy go into effect as designed.

Thank you for your time.