

Letter from the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare, an initiative of
the Maine Child Welfare Action Network

In support of LD 1922, An Act to Support Workforce Development for Families That Were
Involved in Child Protective Activities by Requiring the Sealing of Certain Records

To the Health and Human Services Committee

January 27, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Jamie Brooks, and I am here today speaking on behalf of the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare.

We are parents with lived experience in Maine's child welfare system and have all reunified with our children. Our cases closed anywhere from a few years ago to more than twenty years ago. In every case, parents did what was asked, made real changes, and were found by a judge to be safe.

We are here in strong support of this legislation.

Right now, the child abuse and neglect registry creates lifelong barriers for parents, even long after cases are closed and families are stable. Parents with old findings are blocked from jobs in healthcare, mental health, childcare, elder care, and other helping professions. Some have had job offers rescinded years after their cases ended. Others went to school and training programs to help others, only to learn they would never be allowed to work in their field because of a registry record.

This doesn't just affect parents. It affects children.

Many parents can't volunteer on school field trips or help in classrooms. Children notice when their parents can't show up in the same way as other parents. Some parents, even with adult children, are still barred from reading to a grandchild's class. These barriers have a lasting negative impact on family relationships.

As a parent, I know how discouraging it is to have your past follow you long after you've done the work, even after demonstrating safety and rebuilding trust.

LD 1922 takes a balanced and responsible approach. It does not erase records or remove serious protection. State records remain in place, and the bill includes clear exclusions for the most serious cases. What it does is recognize that people can change and that time and accountability should matter.

We respectfully ask you to support this legislation.