

*Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:* my name is Fosia Diriye, I am a resident of Lewiston and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1919, The Representative Ann E. Peoples Family Caregiver Credit.

I live in Lewiston with my three daughters (Bilan 18, Mahado 16, and Madina 13. I worked for the city of Lewiston city administration for almost 9 years. My daughter Mahado was diagnosed with Autism, hearing challenges that keep her from being totally an independent child. (Mahado) is a sweet little human being who spreads love in our family. As a mother, caring for my child has always been a top priority, to give her the maximum time and support I can offer, but the reality in our lives dictates otherwise. I have an obligation to take care of the entire family, pay the bills, keep the lights on, insure that we have a roof over our head, and take care of my other daughters, who are also growing and have increasing needs for care and attention.

In Mid 2017, I fell down while I was at work and was transported to the ER, I could not move my legs and a few hours later I was brought home. It took me a very long time to recover and stayed home till today. I was confirmed as disable by my doctor. Being disabled myself, caring for my daughter complicated our family dynamics and brought more challenges. Hope this will

I am very hopeful that this bill will go through the process to help so many families who are in need in our state. Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.