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My name is Grace and I'm on the board of the Souther Maine Worker's Center and I'm confused as to why we're still talking about this approximately two years later.

Some background: I worked at a VA hospital 20 years ago and guess what? We had accrued paid sick days, up to 13 weeks FMLA, and 2 weeks vacation every year. I'm know DoL has a similar package and government work is pretty cushy, so it's a little shortsighted that only certain people enjoy those benefits, even though there's disabled vets roaming the streets. Really makes you think.

I work in healthcare with elder, disabled adults. If I get sick and have to come into work, my healing time will be prolonged and thereby my "productivity" is diminished. And if I get my client sick, she could die, but that's one less old person suckling off the teat social security and SNAP. More money saved!

It's pretty simple. Woker gets sick. They take a day off to rest. They return to work, fresh and better able to do their job.

Maine is America's small town. We are all neighbors and it's high time we started to treating each other as such, however class and culture wars have divided us.

On a personal level, what upsets me the most is the hubris and consistent back pedaling from this committee. Make a plan and stick to it! Just to save a little money and keep the upper classes seniors happy while the rest of us live paycheck to paycheck. No one wants to do our jobs. No one wants to mop the floor all day or get yelled at for not cooking an overpriced burger the right way. I'd be hard pressed to find anyone backing these bills willing to clean up an old lady's "accidents" and hear horrifying stories of her childhood trauma. No one wants to stock shelves for pennies per hour. But we do it. Because we have to. We born in the wrong class or the wrong gender, race, religion or national origin.

I question the moral codes of anyone who supports these violent, yes violent, bills. Without PTO and PFML, you're hurting Mainers and that's just plain wrong. I pray you never have to take care of a dying loved ones or be front row for poverty and human suffering. We are paycheck away from homelessness. It's a shame.