

April 22, 2025

In Opposition to:

LD 1400 An Act to Exempt Certain Public School Districts and Their Employees from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program

To Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Virginia Mott, and I am a recently retired teacher. I live in Lakeville, Maine.

LD 1400 seems to be based on a misunderstanding of what is in school employee contracts. In the district from which I recently retired, our contract included provisions for a voluntary bank of sick leave days. The contract outlined specific ways in which staff members could voluntarily donate some of their sick days to the bank and how those days could be used. The term 'sick leave' was at the heart of it.

A specific case predating the passage of Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave Act comes to mind. A staff member needed to take time off to help an ill family member. Time from the sick leave bank was not available to that staff person because it did not meet the standards set by contract. That person would have benefited from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act if it had been in existence then.

Please recognize that this bill will hurt school employees and vote no.

Thank you,

Virginia L. Mott

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Virginia L. Mott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.