

Joan Newkirk  
Bath  
LD 406

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Bath, Maine  
April 23, 2025

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roedaer, and Members of the Labor Committee,

I am writing to express my support of the Family Leave Act and I reject any attempt to roll back this legislation.

As a grandmother and former teacher, I have seen the devastating challenges families face when caregiving for family members while holding down a job. The parents of my students were often cobbling together child care while struggling to meet the demands of usually low-paying work. The families are under great stress, which has larger negative implications on our workforce and the greater economy.

Many of us (primarily women) have experienced the strain of taking care of an ill parent as we juggle other responsibilities, including a demanding job. I am fortunate to live nearby and am able to babysit my grandsons. Many young families do not have child care support.

We do not have to live this way. Most developed countries are much more supportive of families. "Currently, 37 out of 38 OECD countries offer paid maternity leave to working mothers around the time of childbirth (and, in some countries, adoption). On average, these countries provide 17.3 weeks of leave for mothers (or, sometimes, "primary caregivers"), replacing between 27% (in Ireland) and 100% (in 13 countries) of lost wages. Maternity leave is usually job-protected, meaning employers are required to maintain employment for leave takers."

--Paid Family Leave Across OECD Countries | Bipartisan Policy Center

Contributions toward the Family Leave Act is money well spent and moves us toward a more compassionate society. Please vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills:

LD406 | LD539 | LD952 | LD 1169 | LD1221 | LD1249 | LD1273 | LD1307 |  
LD1333 | LD1400 | LD 1712

Thank you!