

**TESTIMONY OF  
Brian Parke  
Combined Testimony on April 23, 2025 Paid  
Family and Medical Leave Bills**



Good afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Committee on Labor. My name is Brian Parke and I am the President and CEO of the Maine Motor Transport Association and a resident of Brunswick. The Association is comprised of more than 1,870 member companies, whose employees make up a large portion of the almost 34,000 people who make their living in the trucking industry in Maine.

In an effort to be concise, we would like to provide our position on general concepts outlined in the 13 bills in front of the committee today:

**Making the program voluntary.** We wholeheartedly support voluntary participation to allow impacted employers to assess their own unique workforce and operational needs and allow impacted employees to assess their desire to work for an employer providing PFML – or similar – coverage.

**Exempting certain industries from the program.** We see this as a reason to support voluntary participation – different businesses and industries face unique operational challenges.

**Delay the payment of benefits.** We support the notion that it would benefit PFML rollout by allowing businesses to get a better handle on how they want to approach various private plan options versus the state's plan.

**Removing the provision that the leave must be scheduled to prevent undue hardship on the employer.** We oppose this concept because it ignores the practical realities businesses face when it comes to staffing and satisfying customers, especially for small businesses, regardless of industry.

**Fully repeal the program.** While we would support this concept due to the outpouring of feedback we have received from our members, we recognize the political reality of this effort make it unlikely to pass.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing us to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have now or at work session.

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Testimony submitted for all PFML bills.