

Brooke Burkett  
Brunswick

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Brooke Burkett, and I live in Brunswick, ME. I am writing today to ask you to support LD 1559.

Before I had my son, I knew that paid family medical leave was important. It was not until my son was born unexpectedly at only 26 weeks (almost 4 months early) that I understood what it meant to not have it. My son spent 89 days in the NICU and had a relatively smooth stay: one surgery, a diagnosis of aspiration, atypical brain development, and a hole in his heart that would heal with time. I spent 2 days in the hospital after his birth and went back to work after 30 days. My physical recovery and my son's complicated health was made even more difficult as I balanced my work schedule, and finances. Paid family leave is a luxury afforded to few in this country but benefits everyone.

I ask you to support families, like mine, by supporting paid family medical leave with this bill.

Thank you for your time,  
Brooke Burkett