

Sara Kinrade  
Augusta

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and members of the Joint Standing Committee for Labor and Housing, my name is Sara Kinrade, from Augusta, Maine and I am writing in support of LD 1559.

I have a complex medical history, and often rely on Federal Family and Medical Leave Act benefits to protect my job when I need to be out of work for appointments and flare ups of my chronic condition. Paid leave would be a great help to me in my daily life. However, I most needed paid medical leave when I experienced a high risk pregnancy in 2017. I suffered from severe preeclampsia, sustained an acute kidney injury which led to permanent damage, and I underwent an emergency c-section to deliver an extremely premature baby.

My son was born 9 weeks early and spent many weeks in the NICU at Maine Medical Center. During that time, my greatest fear was that I would exceed the 12 weeks allotted by FMLA and lose my job due to needing to be in Portland with my son. My husband was able to take unpaid leave to stay with us, which was very necessary as I was discharged after 4 days still unable to drive or walk long distances and our son would remain inpatient another six weeks.

During the time we were staying in Portland with our vulnerable newborn, we relied on the financial support of family and friends through crowdsourcing to keep our lights on and our bills paid. We know were lucky to be able to do so. It is not a guarantee that anyone who found themselves in our position would have been able to stay in their home at all. A medical emergency should never be the reason someone loses their job or their home.

Please protect the most vulnerable workers in Maine and support LD 1559, and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Sara Kinrade