

RONALD I. BLUM MD

PO Box 104
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May 18, 2023

To: Senator Mike Tipping and Representative Amy Roeder,
chairs, and other esteemed members of the Labor and Housing
Committee

Re: LD 1964

My name is Ronald Blum and I have been practicing primary care and Occupational medicine in the Patten area since 1975. I am writing to encourage you to pass this measure to provide paid Family and Medical Leave benefits to Maine citizens. In my long experience working with parents and families, mill workers and farmers, I have seen first-hand the difficult social impact of dealing with one's own or family member's illness.

One example, Mr. and Mrs. local family, live in a northern Maine village, and have often struggled financially, but still opened their home to multiple foster children, several of whom they ultimately adopted. The Mrs. struggles with Multiple Sclerosis, and has become less ambulatory and more and more dependent, with flares leaving her occasionally incapacitated. While the father suffers from advanced diabetes with kidney complications, requiring a complicated diet and insulin injection regimen, limiting his activity. In recent years they have been forced to leave work, but a FML program could have provided

major relief and allowed them to remain in the workplace and provide for their family much longer.

One of my own office employees once requested leave to care for her sick mother, who was also a patient I cared for. Her siblings were attending the older woman weekends, but my employee needed to fill in during the week. Our small business worked around her absence for the few weeks she was gone, and her mother recovered to live many more years with her family. That experience reinforced the value of such benefit in my mind.

Please do what is best for Maine people and pass LD. 1964.

Thank you,

Ronald I. Blum

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