

May 22, 2023

Dear Labor Committee Members,

My name is Tony Cowles, and I am writing as a small business owner from South Portland in support of LD 1964.

In addition to attracting well-qualified workers to our state, I believe this legislation could benefit so many Mainers. LD 1964 has the ability to revitalize the Maine workforce, by encouraging young people to stay in Maine, and to entice other qualified workers to come live and work in our state. This program will benefit so many Maine working families, allowing them to care for loved ones, as well as to manage their own personal health needs. I believe that once this program is initially funded by the State, this type of universal coverage will pay for itself quickly. As a sole proprietor, I also see a corresponding benefit to small businesses who would be allowed to buy into this program. Fortuitously, now seems like an especially good time for the legislature to act because of our current surplus.

As a husband and father, I also see LD 1964 as a great boost for working women in Maine. Historically, too many educated young women have made the choice to leave the workforce after having children. This legislation could be a critical incentive to help women exercise their education, helping them to stay engaged in their vocations. By allowing young women and families to briefly stay at home after giving birth or adopting a child, we are helping them to fulfill their career ambitions here in Maine.

For these reasons, I believe that Paid Family and Medical Leave is a powerful incentive for business, for families, and for Maine. I encourage you to support the health and future of our workforce by adopting LD 1964.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Cowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" being more prominent than the last name "Cowles".

*Tony Cowles, Principal*  
Cowles Studio | Landscape Architecture

Tony Cowles  
South Portland  
LD 1964

Good morning,

I am unable to testify over Zoom, however I have attached written statement in support of LD 1964.

Thank you,  
Tony Cowles  
South Portland, ME