

Tracey Falla
Cumberland
LD 1964

Testimony In Support of LD 1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program

Tracey Falla
Cumberland, Maine
May 23, 2023

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Tracey Falla and I live in Cumberland. I am testifying in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

My personal story of requiring medical leave involves being T-boned by a drunk driver who ran a red light. My high school age daughter and I had concussions, whiplash and rib injuries along with bruises and lacerations. I absolutely could not work for at least 4 weeks due to my own injuries and I also had to take care of my daughter. As the breadwinner of my family it was essential that I had paid leave. Quitting my job due to this temporary disability would not have helped my employer, family or the community. Through no fault of my own I needed paid time off from work and thankfully I was able to receive it. Everyone deserves this coverage.

As an Occupational Therapist I know the power of purposeful and meaningful work. I also understand accidents happen - we are humans, not robots - and need to be treated as such to heal properly.

I truly believe that what supports and heals our individual workers pays huge dividends to a healthy and productive society. We don't want sick/hurt people coming to work. We also know this policy would boost women and minority groups the most and equity matters.

I hope you will support LD 1964.

Sincerely,

Tracey Falla, Occupational Therapist