

Ella Fontaine  
Cumberland  
LD 1964

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

My name is Ella Fontaine and I have lived in Cumberland, Maine for 19 years, my whole life. I am testifying in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine. Please take the time to read the following facts related to the urgency of paid family medical leave:

The United States is the only high-income country that does not provide paid family leave.

Women's incomes drop 30 percent after the birth of their first child and never catch up. Meanwhile, men make roughly 20 percent more once they have children.

74 percent of working women would have no savings left if they took eight weeks of unpaid maternity leave.

In 2021, 38 million family caregivers in the US provided an estimated 36 billion hours of unpaid care to older or disabled adult family members, worth \$600 billion.

The number of Americans needing long-term care services will more than double from 12 million people in 2010 to 27 million people by 2050. At the same time, the number of potential caregivers for people ages 80 and older will decline by more than half in that same timeframe.

I expect to see your support LD 1964 if you support the working class of Maine.

Sincerely,  
Ella Fontaine