

Eliza Kehew
South Portland
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

Eliza Kehew
South Portland, Maine
May 25, 2023

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

My name is Eliza Kehew and I live in South Portland, Maine. I am testifying in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

As a mother, a private practice clinician in Maine, and the primary financial provider in my household, my family depends on the income brought in by my practice. The threat of not being able to take a leave if myself or a member of my family should need it has caused me to question leaving the field all together.

I believe that everyone deserves the right to a safety net. To be able to take care of ourselves or our families if we have to, without the threat of losing everything if we need to take a leave. Maine residents should feel supported in pursuing their dreams of owning independent businesses, and this legislation would greatly support those ventures.

In a time where mental health practitioners are needed more than ever, Maine should be taking tangible and proactive steps to support and protect small and independent private practice clinicians. Passing LD 1964 would be a step in that direction.

I hope you will support LD 1964. Thank you for listening, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Eliza Kehew