

Suzanne Merkelson
Portland
LD 1964

Testimony of Suzanne Merkelson before the Labor and Housing Committee in
SUPPORT of LD 1964.

Distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Suzanne Merkelson and I am a resident of Portland. I am also a new mom -- my son was born 6 months ago after a difficult labor. I was extremely lucky to have nearly 6 months of paid parental leave given by my employer, but I recognize that I am in the minority of Mainers in having that much time. However, I really needed that time to recover and take care of my baby. 12 weeks should be the bare minimum available to birthing parents. Additionally, even with 6 months leave for myself and 6 weeks for my husband, we still have a significant gap before we're able to get our child into full time childcare (even though I signed up for 12 daycare waitlists when I was 8 weeks pregnant!). I urge you to pass this important bill to support Maine families and empower Maine employers.