

Raina Overskride
Lewiston
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

Raina Overskride
Lewiston, Maine
May 25, 2023

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

My name is Raina Overskride and I live in Lewiston. I am testifying in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

In 2020 my stepfather had gastral complications and had to miss work for a few weeks to recover. During this period we fell behind on our bills and our pantry and fridge became scarce with food. To say this was a difficult time would be an understatement. We had to rely on food banks most of the time. The food banks did not have much to give and we were lucky my partner was able to send some money for food. It took close to a year to attain the stability we had before my stepfather missed work due to illness.

Many in our situation go hungry or worse lose their housing and face further crisis creating a spiral into suffering and homelessness thus facing violence and even death. With the lack of safety nets like Paid Medical and Family Leave many suffer. The suffering can easily be avoided with a bill like LD 1964.

If my stepfather had Paid Medical and Family Leave in 2020 we would have been able to be food secure and stay ahead of our bills. We would have been at ease knowing where our next meal was coming from, that our bills were paid, and that we had housing stability. There are people like my stepfather all over this state with similar or worse situations who need this bill.

I urge all of you to support LD 1964

Please do the right thing for the working-class people of Maine.
Thank you for taking a look at my testimony

Sincerely,
Raina Overskride