

**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**

Clara Porter, Director  
Prevention. Action. Change.  
72 Rackleff Street  
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 Clara Porter and I live in Portland. I am testifying in support of paid family and medical leave for Maine.

Three times in my own life I needed and did not have access to paid family leave: twice when one of my children was in crisis and again when my spouse was ill and unable to care for himself. The emotional, mental, and economic toll of those periods persists to this day and with aging parents, there are more times to come.

I run a small business, Prevention. Action. Change. which is dedicated to preventing and responding to violence. Our nine teachers are all contract workers. None have access to paid family leave through this or their others jobs. None. This bill would make this benefit, this right, accessible and affordable to them, impacting every person in their lives.

Passage of paid family leave in Maine will have a direct impact on myself, my employees, and the individuals and families with whom we work. Those most targeted for and impacted by violence will also benefit significantly from access to paid family leave. People experiencing intimate partner violence will have access to greater options for support and therefore independence. This bill will also address some of the barriers to care which are behind the significant disparities in life span and health of Black, Brown, and Indigenous Mainers.

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

Sincerely,

Clara Porter

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LD 1964

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