

Samantha Rogers  
Wilton  
LD 1964

Senator Mike Tipping and Representative Amy Roeder. My name is Samantha Rogers and I am a resident of Wilton. I am here to speak in support of LD 1964, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"

My partner and I were living independently when I got pregnant. At the time, neither of us had jobs that allowed paid time off. In order to give our starting family the best chance, both my partner and I had to make the decision to drastically reduce our spending, our bills, our living situation, and more. We moved in with our family - my mother - for housing. We had to sacrifice our independence, both physically and financially in order to be prepared for our baby.

If our careers had paid leave, we could have remained independent and contributing members of society for those three months. However, we were forced to leave our community for more affordable living circumstances. We had to find new careers that could better support our future. Paid Family Medical Leave would have allowed us to provide for our family and return to our chosen careers. Additionally, it would have prevented our prior and new employers from costly turnover costs.

Mainers deserve to care for themselves, their children, their loved ones, and be financially stable. Job security and financial stability keep our economy and Maine families thriving, and Paid Family Medical Leave is how we bridge that gap as a community.

Thank you.