



Naomi Skoglund
Portland, Maine
May 25, 2023

Written Testimony In Support of a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program

My name is Naomi Skoglund and I am a small business owner in Portland, Maine. I write today in support of LD 1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program.

When I had my daughter, I was living in California and I was able to receive family leave benefits through the state's short term disability fund, which I had contributed to as an employee. That financial support made a monumental difference in my ability to care for my daughter, take the time I needed to recover from childbirth, and return to work with more capacity to do my job well.

Here in Maine, I am a small business owner. I have had employees go on parental leave three times in the past 5 years and as much as I have wanted to support them financially, my business has not had the funds to provide parental leave benefits.

I offer employee benefits that include basic paid time off, but that would not cover very much if they needed surgery or had to care for a loved one for any reason. I have seen employees forgo medical care because they couldn't afford to miss work.

This bill would strengthen my ability to support my employees and be competitive as an employer.

Thank you for hearing my concerns today. I ask you to support the passage of LD1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program.

Naomi Skoglund
Portland
LD 1964

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I had my daughter when I was living in California and I was able to receive family leave benefits through the state's short term disability fund, which I had contributed to as an employee. That financial support made a monumental difference in my ability to care for my daughter and take the time I needed to recover from childbirth.

Here in Maine, I am a small business owner. I have had employees go on parental leave three times in the past 5 years and as much as I have wanted to support them financially, my business has not had the funds to provide maternity leave benefits.

I offer employee benefits that include basic paid time off, but that would not cover very much if they needed surgery or had to care for a loved one for any reason. I have seen employees forgo medical care because they couldn't afford to miss work. This bill would strengthen my ability to support my employees and be competitive as an employer.

Thank you for hearing my concerns today. I ask you to support the passage of LD1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program.