

Greg Soutiea  
Spruce Head  
LD 1964

Testimony In Opposition to LD 1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program

Greg and Lauren Soutiea  
Craignair Inn by the Sea  
Causeway Restaurant  
St. George, Maine  
5/23/23

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

My name is Greg Soutiea and we live in St. George. I am writing today to oppose the Sponsor's amendment LD 1964, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program." This proposal is one of the most benefit rich and expensive in the country and is not in line with the needs of Maine's businesses.

We purchased our business about 4 years ago and have grown it from a sleepy inn/restaurant employing about 7 people seasonally to employing about 50 in peak season and keeping a year round staff of 25-30. These tax increases would cut into our ALREADY THIN margins of running a restaurant and negatively impact our staff.

Please vote LD 1964 ought not to pass. As crafted this proposal would likely cause harm to my business, and other Maine businesses as well as the state's greater economy.

Sincerely,  
Greg and Lauren Soutiea