

**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**

George Sprague

Bath, Maine

May 25, 2023

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

My name is George Sprague and I live in Bath. I'm a timber framer, a veteran, a husband, and a dad. I support paid family and medical leave for Maine.

When we had a baby in 2010, I got two weeks of paid parental leave, and my wife was able to combine sick time and vacation time for 4 weeks. We know this made us lucky - most people don't even have that much. But still, after that first 6 weeks, we weren't able to go more than another couple of weeks without a paycheck, and infant child care was either unaffordable, or unavailable - most childcare facilities won't take infants under 12 weeks old.

When we crunched the numbers, it ended up making more sense for me to quit my job as a wooden boat builder, and staying home to provide full time care for our infant. I ended up staying out of the work force until we could get our child into public pre-K at 4 years old. But if we had had access to an insurance program like PFML, that helped us pay our mortgage and buy food until affordable childcare became available, I might have been able to stay in my job.

I hope you will support LD 1964 so that people can take care of their kids, pay their bills, and also stay in the workforce.

Sincerely,

George Sprague