

**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**

Jack Trabucchi
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 Jack Trabucchi and I live in Portland Maine. I am testifying in support of a paid family and medical leave benefits program for Maine.

I became a father for the first time this past December when my daughter Stella was born. Unfortunately, my job does not offer paid parental leave and when it came time for my daughter to be born I had no more paid time off and could not afford to take unpaid leave. Working full time with a newborn is extremely grueling and unfair to my wife. I can only imagine how much more supportive I could have been for her and our baby if I had access to paid leave.

I know other states have a paid family leave benefits program and I believe its time Maine did too. Not only will it help small businesses better hire and retain employees, but also help families afford to take time to care for our families when we need it most. Together, these objectives will lead to a stronger Maine.

Paid family and medical leave is good for Maine. 77% of working Mainers, including myself, do not have access to paid family and medical leave. Paid leave provides greater support to Maine's aging population and will attract younger people to the state, knowing they will be supported if they start a family here. Paid leave means more supported caregivers and better care. Access to paid leave significantly decreases postpartum depression and infants are more likely to have regular checkups and immunizations. In sum, paid leave means more thriving, healthy families throughout Maine.

If I had been able to utilize paid family and medical leave when my daughter was born I could have supported my wife's physical recovery and feed our baby through the night, I would have been a better employee because I wouldn't have been so sleep deprived, and I would have had more quality time with my infant. Even one month of paid leave would have made a difference. The financial contribution to this fund is worth it.

I hope you will support LD 1964. Thank you for considering my testimony. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information from me.

Sincerely,

Jack Roger Trabucchi