

James Waite
Old Orchard Beach
LD 1964

I'm contacting you in opposition to LD 1964, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program.

Employment compensation is between the employer and the employee, not an increasingly intrusive and socialist government. In a competitive free market society employers offer benefits to attract and retain good employees. Just because some employers don't, that doesn't mean it's on the rest of us to make up for their shortcomings. Employees, by law, are already allowed twelve weeks off for unpaid family leave and medical leave. Now, you want to take more money from the people, and dole it out as you sit fit to pay for it. How much of that money will be used to create new government jobs, government jobs that have benefits much better than most people? How much of that money will be wasted on administration fees?

Employers are not the nannies of their employees, and the government is not the nanny of the people. What we get out of life is up to the individual, not our employers and certainly not our government. Your intentions may be good, but the consequences will inevitably be bad.

Remember this, when the cost of hiring a worker rises, demand for that worker falls. Mandated paid family and medical leave is a terrible idea and I urge the committee to vote "Ought Not To Pass."