



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

Testimony of Whitney Parrish
Maine Women's Lobby
In support of LD 666
An Act To Protect Pregnant Workers
May 6, 2019

Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: my name is Whitney Parrish, Director of Policy and Program for the Maine Women's Lobby. The Maine Women's Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide membership organization devoted to raising the economic, social, and political status of Maine's 678,000 women and girls.

I am pleased to speak to you today in support of LD 666, *An Act To Protect Pregnant Workers*.

No pregnant person should have to choose between the health of their pregnancy and their job. When laws do not explicitly guarantee reasonable accommodation for pregnancy, pregnant people can be pushed out of their jobs for merely requesting a water break or needing a break from lifting heavy objects. As has been noted, any accommodation that would cause undue hardship to an employer would not qualify under this law, though we do hope that employers would work with their employees as much as possible to make sure they remain safe and healthy.

Reasonable accommodations that allow pregnant people to remain in the workforce for as long as they can or want is good for the worker's physical and emotional health, the positive development of the fetus, and our entire economy. We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 666. Thank you for your time.

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