



National Association of Social Workers

MAINE CHAPTER

Families in Maine are working hard to care for their children and help them with learning at home during this unprecedented time, all while parents attempt to meet the demands of their jobs. Families face many challenges: the public health impacts of COVID-19, the economic stress of closed or slowed businesses, limited access to child care, school districts that are not able to fully open, and the lack of paid leave or paid sick days for many workers. Together, these make meeting work demands a huge challenge, and families are facing impossible choices.

The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Association for the Education of Young Children, Maine Children's Alliance, and Maine Equal Justice recognize this impact on Maine families, and know that the burden is highest on families who are already facing barriers: families with low income, rural families, English language learners, and families without access to paid leave or affordable, high-quality childcare.

We're asking you to take action with us today.

Right now, the Senate has two ways to support families who are sending children back to school: The HEROES Act and the Childcare is Essential Act work together to support working families. [The HEROES Act](#) expands paid sick days, family and medical leave, unemployment compensation, nutrition and food assistance programs, housing assistance, includes another round of stimulus payments, and supports state governments to respond to COVID-19. [The Childcare is Essential Act](#) creates the Child Care Stabilization Fund to award grants to child care providers during and after the COVID-19.

The Senate returns to business today - take action now to make sure that these bills are top priorities.

- [Call or write Senator Susan Collins](#), urging her support for the [HEROES Act](#) and the [Childcare is Essential Act](#) BEFORE the national elections. The Senate COVID-19 relief bill, the [HEALS Act](#), [doesn't go far enough](#) to help working families.
- [Call or write Senator Angus King](#) and thank him for his support of the HEROES Act and the Childcare is Essential Act. It's always nice to thank our lawmakers for their hard work and valued actions.

We know there will be more work to do at the state and federal level to build the resources for families to recover from COVID-19, and we plan to share more opportunities with you. For today, thank you for raising your voices for Maine families.

The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

The Maine Women's Lobby
The Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
The Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Equal Justice

Additional Resources:

For information on childcare subsidies and eligibility: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/step.ht>

For information on safety net programs, including food and housing, health care, and financial support : <https://maineequaljustice.org/people/covid-19-resources/>

Maine Department of Education COVID-19 Toolkit: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/toolkit>

To join the Paid Leave for ME community group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1505200189616059>

To follow the Maine Paid Leave Coalition: <https://www.facebook.com/MainePaidFamilyLeave>

To learn more about why federal child care relief matters: <https://childcarerelief.org/contact-congress-time-is-running-out-to-savechildcare/>

Working together,
NASW Maine
Policy Committee
naswme.socialworkers.org

*We are committed to providing information and resources to help all social workers in their professional lives. We are able to do this because of NASW Members - membership dues are a major part of our Chapter's budget. If you are not a member, please consider **becoming one today**. When you become a member of NASW, you automatically become a member of your Chapter and help support our work.*

