

February 12, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Catherine Paglio and I am a Childcare Licensing Specialist in the Office of Child and Family Services. I am currently in my tenth year working for the state. I truly do love my job and work with wonderful co-workers and childcare providers.

I am writing this letter on my own time to support the need to fully fund our departments, including closing the pay gap and improving wages.

My husband and I live in a small home in Portland, my husband is partially retired and our cost to live in this small home has increased in the past year and our wages are making it more difficult to make ends meet. I would like to list a few examples: below you will see our bills from January 2022 compared to January 2023

	January 2022	January 2023
House payment	\$ 1589.00	\$ 1624.00 -increase due to rise in city taxes
CMP electricity	\$102.28	\$300.00-
Spectrum/tv/internet	\$123.00	\$143.00
Groceries -weekly	\$60.00-\$70.00	\$110.00 (approx.)
Gas-weekly	\$20.00 (full tank)	\$35.00 ( full tank)

And I am reimbursed for my mileage-which does not really cover the gas I use weekly to complete childcare inspections from Portland to Lyman and several towns in between.

Those bills listed above are the bills that have increased the most since January 2022, luckily we have no credit card debt but we do have two car payments, car insurance, propane, payment towards IRA-retirement, water, even the man who plows our driveway went up and addition \$10.00 each time in needs to plow, and not to mention unexpected expenses-just this past year we had to replace our hot water tank, our gas stove, outdoor fencing and expensive repairs to our garage door. We keep our heat on our heat pumps low, we keep as many lights as we can off, we watch sales at all the grocery stores and closely watch gas prices. My paycheck has spread about as far as it can. Please support the need to fully fund all departments, and close the pay gap, improving wages.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support.

Catherin Paglio

Child Care Licensing Specialist