

Christine Johnson
Waterville/Alfond Youth & Community Center
LD 258

Testimony of Christine Johnson
Child & Youth Development Director/AYCC

In Support of LD 258, "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"

Sponsored by Representative Melanie Sachs

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, State House Room 228

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, members of the Health and Human Services, my name is Christine Johnson, and I am the Child & Youth Development Director at the Alfond Youth & Community Center.

The ECCP has been a vital resource for the preschool team at the AYCC and parents/guardians of that program. Susan Brousseau, our area LCSW, came to us two years ago to introduce us to the program and we have utilized it several times for child specific and classroom issues. The communication has been excellent and based on a team approach from the start. Our preschool team has learned a great deal from going through the process of referrals, evaluation, and classroom implementation of strategies with the ECCP professionals. Parents have had all positive feedback for communication as well as approach. In times when we felt a real uptick in concerning behaviors in this preschool population, this program came along and has so far met our needs. My concern now lies in the program being able to keep up with the demand that will now come, as parents looking for services for their children are just not finding any or encountering huge wait lists. Also with the ability to keep kids in our programs who need time sensitive or temporary support to be successful, but cannot find it.

The one-time stipend we received for utilizing the program went right back into enhancing our preschool curriculum materials and increasing our outreach to make sure we are always fully enrolled and supporting the community to the best of our ability. If we want the classroom to be successful and be able to meet the needs of the youth in our care, we need programs like this to continue and grow. The only way that can happen is with your support.

Christine Johnson
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