

Maine Grocers &
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April 11, 2023

Senator Nicole Grohoski, Chair
Representative Joe Perry, Chair
Members of the Taxation Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 1222, An Act to Expand Child Care Services Through an Employer-supported Tax Credit

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and members of the Taxation Committee:

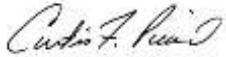
My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. In the interest of time, I am also submitting comments on behalf of the Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association. MGFPA is a business trade association representing more than 200 businesses within Maine's food community; Main Street businesses including independently owned and operated grocery stores and supermarkets, food and beverage producers and processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and supportive service companies. Both of our organizations are testifying in support of LD 1222.

In 2020, Governor Mills appointed me to serve on the Economic Recovery Committee to help navigate Maine through the pandemic, and to provide direction to help grow Maine's economy. While our primary focus was helping businesses that were directly harmed by shutdowns and curtailment of services, the Committee also spent time focusing on some of the underlying issues that were hampering Maine's economy. Those two issues are inextricably tied together: workforce shortages, and lack of available childcare. There is a certain segment of the workforce that will be limited in their participation if there is not affordable and available childcare.

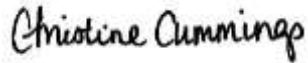
While LD 1222 will not be a cure-all, it is certainly a step in the right direction. The bill authorizes a refundable tax credit of up to \$3,000 for an employer that pays or provides in-kind resources for child care for the children of its employees.

We are pleased to see the bi-partisan sponsorship of this bill, and we believe it will be a positive step forward. We support LD 1222, and hope the committee does as well.

Sincerely,



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