

Testimony of Ashley Jones

On behalf of myself

In support of LD 1442 An Act to Recognize an Association of Early Childhood Educators as an
Educational Advisory Organization

4/25/23

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Ashley Jones, A lead Infant and Toddler Teacher for an Early HeadStart and Maine Association for the Education of Young Children (MaineAEYC) member.

MaineAEYC promotes high-quality early learning for each and every child, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

MaineAEYC has personally provided me with a multitude of professional development opportunities and has acted as a resource in my education of young children. As a member I have relied upon them for support in providing high quality education and care. They have truly been a representative for early childhood education for Maine.

Recognizing MaineAEYC as an educational advisory organization would open up support to members, communities and early childhood educators across the state. Workforce is in crisis, as educators are having to look to other employment for better wages, health insurance, and retirement benefits. This causes a deficit to families as classrooms and programs are forced to close due to loss of educator workforce. MaineAEYC is looking at the role they can play in bringing better benefits to the field, in hopes to reduce the deficit of the current workforce climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of passing this legislation.