

Testimony of Jane Howard

In support of

***LD 1726: An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care for Working Families  
sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson***

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Jane Howard. I am a Lead Preschool Teacher, and I live in South Portland. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

I support raising child care educator wages because It's not unknown that early childhood educators do not make a living wage. Many of us struggle to live off the income we are paid and forced to find second and third jobs. Our work is extremely important and demanding. We deserve to be compensated appropriately for the time and dedication we put into the work. We should be able to live off the income we make from our work that we are passionate about and that we believe deeply in. Maine's children and families deserve high quality educators. Unless something changes, the children and families of Maine will continue to struggle find quality care or any care at all. A wage increase will hopefully help fill empty jobs and be an incentive for the current early childhood educators to remain working in their field of expertise. Please help us.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because I think this will help educate a variety of different people in Maine who are not aware of the cost it takes to provide high quality care and education.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Jane Howard