

Testimony of Katherine Young  
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 Katherine Young. I am a TV producer and parent, and I live in Kittery. 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 everyone deserves a higher living wage but even more so the people who take care of our most precious asset - our children. our state's future depends on it.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because better support for all means people will be paid a fair wage with research behind it.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because everyone needs help sometime. this group within our community needs more. one day we may be the ones who need help. let's set up this support now.

I support more stable funding for child care programs by ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because more support and funding for businesses that involve children increase access and support for everyone involved.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because we should be the first in helping young families make maine their long term home. investments in this sector will only increase that possibility.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because more access and accessibility and funding for all is crucial to fostering a better and more supported community.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because the people who take care of my child should get support for their own.

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because when someone needs child care they need it NOW. their employment and sanity depends on it. we should speed up this process.

I support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because when a small business needs support they need it NOW. their company depends on it. we should speed up this process.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Katherine Young