

Testimony of Valerie Pinkham

In support of

LD 1799 An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Valerie Pinkham. I am a Public PreK Teacher, and I live in New Portland. I'm testifying in support of LD 1799 An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities.

I support expanding access to public pre-k that strengthens inclusion of family child care, centers, and Head Starts who wish to participate while supporting the needs of families because I have seen the amazing results that public PreK can offer. My class has amazed me with their literacy and social emotional skills this year. Huge improvements from the beginning of the year.

I support the establishment of a group of stakeholders to explore equitable pathways for child care programs to access publicly funded pre-k investments because we need to reach all of the children we can. Provide bussing, whatever is needed to get the children to school. More recruiting to reach everyone.

I support facilitation services that help communities strengthen partnerships among child care programs and public schools in delivering publicly funded pre-K that meet local needs to benefit the children in our State.

I support establishing a Commission to study aligning governance and blending and braiding funding in early care and early childhood education systems because we need to bring the very best education to every child in Maine.

Please support LD 1799,
Valerie Pinkham