

Testimony of Katherine Young  
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 Katherine Young. I am a TV producer and parent, and I live in Kittery. 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 our community in maine is getting older. the only way to bring young people and young families to this state is to support them. public pre k will open so many doors to more families and children looking to move to the state.

I support aligning professional development for educators working across early childhood settings and expanding career pathways for ECE professionals because it is the right and just thing to do.

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 a dedicated resource to help support these groups and programs is the only way we will grow and improve.

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 because everyone working together for the greater good for our children is crucial to a more just and educated society.,

I support establishing a Commission to study aligning governance and blending and braiding funding in early care and early childhood education systems because more funding, more money, and more support is only good if there is research and science behind it. let's figure out the best way to support maine families and children and be the best in the country.

Please support LD 1799,  
Katherine Young