

Testimony of Lori Tanguay

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 Lori Tanguay. I am a preschool teacher, and I live in Gorham. 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 the childcare wages to KEEP the experienced staff in child care. I have worked in child care for over 20 years. If i didn't share my income with my husband, I wouldn't have been able to support myself, let alone my family.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because these children are our future! The last 3 years has been so hard on everyone, especially the children. Many of the childcare educators have left the profession not because they wanted too, but so they could live.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because these young parents can't afford childcare. The cost is so high, that it doesn't even allow one of the parents to work. Children should be in child care for so many reasons. Parents are having to choose surviving.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because with all the sickness and new disease, parents need to keep children home to not spread this to classmates or teachers.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because Head start is a program that helps the child and family. Let's give these families the best start possible!

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because I would not be able to even think about retiring at this point. I have not been able to save anything on these wages.

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because these parents are also finding it hard to juggle work, child care and life.

I support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because child cares need to paid their employees. These child cares aren't making much if any over the cost of maintaining a full program.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Lori Tanguay