

Testimony of Emily McLeod
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 Emily McLeod. I am a teacher, and I live in Windham. 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 educator wages are barely livable and it is one of the most important jobs.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because there is so much that goes into quality early childhood and caretakers and teachers need funding and support.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because lower income families need support, childcare and resources more than anyone.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because the program still runs as normal not matter how many students are there and resources are necessary to make sure the program is safe and prepared.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because these children are out future and it directly related to future success.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because with early intervention the need for later support is greatly reduced.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because this allows them to make a livable wage and supports mental health for employees.

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because the forms and process is stressful and intimidating enough.

I support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because the programs need the money for day to day functioning and timely reimbursement is necessary for them to operate.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Emily McLeod