

Testimony of Adrienne Fine

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 Adrienne Fine. I am an engineer, and I live in Portland. 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 providing quality education for our children is the most important thing for society and our future. We need to attract and retain quality professionals by providing higher livable wages for child care educators. Working parents can't afford to have childcare facilities close due to a lack of workers in the industry if wages are too low.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because childcare costs are expensive for families, yet child care educators are still not paid enough. It is expensive to care for and educate our children and a cost model tool would greatly help to improve the industry.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because lower income families are really struggling to find and afford childcare, which impacts their ability to retain jobs. Subsidy eligibility is very important in supporting these families.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because child care workers and facilities need consistent income to continue operating. Gaps in income result in workers leaving the industry and facilities closing, which is causing a childcare shortage and a lot of stress to working families.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because child care is so important to the economy of Maine and the future of our children. We need to invest in child care programs and make them accessible to everyone.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because child care employees deserve to have families of their own while being able to continue working and supporting the system that supports all of our children.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Adrienne Fine