

Testimony of Ashley Curbelo
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 Ashley Curbelo. I am a working mother, and I live in Scarborough. 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 as a working mother with a demanding officer level job, and a husband who has an equally demanding job, I can confidently say that if we don't repair the childcare system everyone will systemically suffer. As a mom, I will be overworked and burdened by early daycare closings and staffing shortages. And then my company will suffer by not having women at the table, and diversity of thought will drop in the rooms where ideas are created and decisions are made. And there's a ripple effect on our economy when that happens. Kids suffer, parents suffer and businesses suffer.

If not more important - the women and men who raise my kids everyday from 8-5 deserve gainful wages that enable them to build wealth and live fruitful lives. They are teaching my kids to learn and shaping who they will become as adults. Their guidance through emotions and development milestones is pivotal for my children - and the fact that they aren't paid accordingly is unacceptable.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because for some families it's the only way they can get by - and when we don't, it has a generational impact on the children who aren't given adequate care.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because I was a head start kid and I thrived because of the incredible teachers I had that I still run into when visiting my hometown. It gave me a start to education that I wouldn't have otherwise had with a single mom with two kids in a low income household.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Ashley Curbelo