

Testimony of Janet Luther

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 Janet Luther. I am a Preschool Teacher, and I live in South 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 I did not enter the field thinking I would ever make a lot of money, but the pay scales in this business do not reflect the skill levels needed to do the job properly or the amount of money I have invested in higher education to meet NAEYC standards for the job. I do know that my employer struggles to entice workers to the field as the pay rates are so low, but we are a tuition based entity and parents struggle to pay as it is. It would be great if you can figure out a way to pay qualified people and programs more. Most teachers who enter, will leave for the higher wages in public school.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Janet Luther