

Testimony of Darling Richardson
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 Darling Richardson. I am a lead teacher at a Toddle Inn, and I live in Otisfield. 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 teachers don't get paid enough and we are with the children a lot.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because it costs a lot to raise a child. Everything is so high to live now days.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because parents have trouble paying for daycare.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because it helps the parents to be able to pay for child care. It is a good system for the parents.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because it would help us as workers to be able to help the parents.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because it helps the children to learn and do better in school.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because it helps us to keep our workers.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Darling Richardson