

Testimony of Angela Farnsworth
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 Angela Farnsworth. I am a parent, and I live in Richmond. 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 they're not paid nearly enough for the intensive amount of work they have. Between caring, cleaning, teaching, fixing, cooking, dealing with big emotions from little ones, etc.

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 will help to understand the funding, what's needed, and where it goes.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because inflation is insane right now and full time working families can't afford childcare. Which results in less people working or the kids suffering with random baby sitters rather than structured childcare.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because you can't prevent an illness, as children are germ ridden humans, to punish the childcare and/or parents is unfair.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because there is not enough programs for childcare currently. This is a field that needs to be invested in to keep the economy going.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because it's important for kids to get this early development and it's currently almost impossible to access.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Angela Farnsworth