

Testimony of Janyce Legrand  
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 Janyce Legrand. I am a nanny and parent, and I live in Springvale. 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, both as a parent and former childcare educator, I know that the current wages do not reflect the needs of the job.

I support Maine developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education because I think it'll be a really good tool for people to realize the cost of childcare.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because I never qualified but I also couldn't afford childcare. I always had to negotiate free or heavily reduced childcare and that in itself made things difficult - if I was sick I couldn't send my child to daycare to be able to rest.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because we are all human! We all get sick! Sick days should be covered.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because this is what we have needed for years!

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because head start is an amazing program! It should be easily accessible for more families.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because I couldn't afford childcare when I was working in childcare!

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because the faster the determination, the faster a parent can get into the workforce and help our economy.

I also support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because you don't want to wait for your paycheck! Neither should they!

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Janyce Legrand