## Testimony of Melanie Stinson 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 Melanie Stinson. I am an Executive Assistant and a former childcare worker, and I live in Gorham. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

I worked in the childcare field for 16 years and to be honest would still be in that field as that still remains my favorite job, however the wages couldn't support me getting a house of my own, getting married, and starting my own family. Over the course of the 16 years, I witnessed countless individuals who gave up this job, many of whom wanted it to be their career, however in reality not many people make a career as a child care educator. This is why I support raising childcare educator wages.

Please vote in support of LD 1726, Melanie Stinson