

Testimony of Erin Lauzier
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 Erin Lauzier. I am a toddler teacher, and I live in Gray. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

Childcare should be a career employees can work full time, support their families, and be able to retire doing what they love, which is why I support raising child care educator wages.

Anyone can work in childcare, but not everyone can provide quality childcare. This is why Maine needs to develop a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education.

I support both raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families and increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because everyone deserves QUALITY childcare.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because teachers work full time regardless.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because it's not a quick fix.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because they deserve it.

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because waitlists are long.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Erin Lauzier