

Testimony of Emily Dupraz  
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 Emily Dupraz. I am a parent and a lawyer, and I live in Portland. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

Children are the future, and we have to invest in them in the same way we invest in other public goods. The child care industry has long suffered from low wages. If we do not invest in paying educators a fair, living wage for the service they provide, then our children will feel the impact of that decision. I am a single, working mom, and I would not be able to provide for my family if I did not have access to high-quality childcare. It is absolutely critical that we invest in the early childcare industry for families and for children.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because everyone should have access to quality early childhood education for their families, regardless of their income.

For childcare centers to accept and support children who attend reliant on a subsidy, it is absolutely critical that the subsidy reimbursement cover days when children are absent from their program. The lack of stability means children and families reliant on subsidies do not have many options.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Emily Dupraz