

Testimony of Gloria Robertson  
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 Gloria Robertson. I am a child care owner and provider, and I live in Anson. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

Early childcare has a high demand for providers/teachers. Raising wages would encourage more people to join or keep teachers that are thinking about changing careers.

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 would help people become aware of the expense quality care and education is.

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families to encourage more people to work and fill the needs of the community and state. I know several people who don't work because they can not afford childcare, especially families with 2+ children!

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because families pay for a slot/spot not for the day. As a licensed childcare provider we are only allowed so many spots per adult. If a child is out it would be near impossible to fill the spot for any particular day, especially if it's last minute notice. Resulting in loss of income.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because long term would be more stable or reliable than short term.

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because so many children miss out on head start because of the lack of availability. Classes fill up quickly and there are not enough teachers to fill the roles needed. Funding could help rectify this.

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because we NEED more childcare employees. This would be a huge benefit for many people!

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because the length of time it takes to receive an answer means parent fees are building and if they are denied the parents and provider are put into difficult situations.

I support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because as a sole childcare provider this is my only income. It's important that I receive payment for my work ASAP so that I can support my family.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,

Gloria Robertson