

Testimony of Denise Bestwick
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 Denise Bestwick. I am an infant/toddler teacher, and I live in New Vineyard. 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 it makes sense! Staff can't make enough to live, so they quit and find more lucrative work. Parents need to work, but can't find childcare!

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 makes sense!

I support raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because it makes sense!

I support more stable funding for child care programs by ensuring that subsidy reimbursement covers days when children are absent from their program because it makes sense!

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because it makes sense!

I support increasing Head Start eligibility and funding because it makes sense!

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because it makes sense!

I support shortened time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because it makes sense!

I support shortened time periods for child care programs receiving subsidy reimbursement because it makes sense!

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Denise Bestwick