

Magen Leikam
Caribou
LD 1726

Hi, Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. I live in Northern Maine, however this wasn't always the case we moved here from Augusta in 2020. Since living in Aroostook county it has been difficult to find childcare or after school care. I'm limited to one daycare. And my school age child, I find alternative daycare for. I was working in public school and had a calling to join the daycare as staff where my youngest attends. While I have a college education and experience working with children in social services as well as education, I'm being compensated as an employee who has no education or experience at all. I love working at the daycare and specifically their preschool program. I love that the program focuses on social emotional and academics. Im sad that I can no longer contribute to Maine Pers, I don't make enough to contribute to my private Roth IRA, and Im now receiving state assistance. Im reliant on going to the food bank for myself and my children. As much as I love working at the daycare, it is not sustainable to live. I've spent the last 200\$ bonus which is taxed, on trying to keep my car insurance active. As a parent I've seen my child become attached to really amazing teachers who have to leave a profession they went to college for because the earnings are not live-able. And sadly this will become my fate, if nothing is turned around.

Please take myself and my family into consideration when you are making decisions regarding the LD1726 AN ACT TO BUILD MAINE'S ECONOMY BY SUPPORT CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES. We need to improve our infrastructure in childcare for families in Maine.