

Testimony of Rina Hortense Ndong Rengouwa Iguinombe

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 Rina Hortense Ndong Rengouwa Iguinombe. I am a student at SMCC and live in Freeport. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families.

I think increasing the salary of childcare educators could encourage people to work in this sector and reduce the lack of staff.

Developing a cost model tool that better supports our understanding of what it costs to provide quality care and education will make it possible to assess the cost of income from the needs that the sector needs to better develop and best meet the needs of the community.

Raising subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families will improve the living conditions of the family, especially with the current inflation which continues to increase.

I support ensuring that subsidy reimbursements cover days when children are absent from their program because these subsidies will allow childcare to cover expenses such as rent and others.

I support Maine developing a long term plan to increase investments in child care programs while also increasing subsidy eligibility because people need more childcare, some families or single mothers cannot go to work because there is not enough room in childcare. These families find themselves with low incomes because they cannot go to work. Sometimes one sacrifices himself because he needs someone to babysit

Increasing eligibility and funding for Head Start will help those who are not eligible and therefore allow childcare who need help to better develop and welcome more children

I support providing funding to pay for child care for child care employees because they must not remain on the sidelines, we need them in their post and if they cannot do it because they are not in a position to pay for childcare for their children, it will be a loss for the sector.

I support shortening time periods for determining subsidy eligibility because this will make it possible to react quickly and therefore provide solutions. For example, if a childcare is eligible and receives a return in a better time frame, it will be able to react accordingly and solve its needs sooner.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,
Rina Hortense Ndong Rengouwa Iguinombe