

Testimony of Lauren Desmond

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 Lauren Desmond. I am a parent and an account manager, and I live in Gorham. 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 subsidy eligibility for Maine's lower income families because everyone deserves access to high quality childcare. Expanding the subsidy allows for more opportunity for working families and growth in our economy.

Childcare workers deserve higher pay, and this cost cannot be passed down to families who already pay a large portion of their income on childcare. If we do not support our childcare workers, they will leave for other opportunities. So many of our children's teachers have advanced degrees and certifications, work long days, and yet do not make the salary of k-12 teachers. childcare workers deserve more, and so do our kids. Let's keep the wonderful, dedicated educators that we have in early childhood and encourage more young people to enter the field by paying them a more competitive wage. I could not do my job without them.

Please vote in support of LD 1726,  
Lauren Desmond