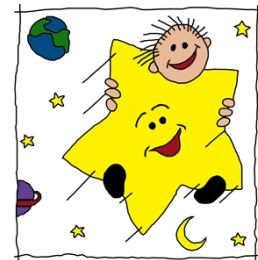


P.O. Box 6038 ☆ Falmouth, Maine 04105



children's
odyssey

**Testimony of Tina Cannon, Director of Operations, Children's Odyssey
In Support of LD 2120**

***An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State
and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Preschools***
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
January 31, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of LD 2120 *An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Preschools*

My name is Tina Cannon. I am the Director of Operations for Children's Odyssey. We are a special purpose nonprofit preschool in Portland, serving children from York, Cumberland, and Androscoggin Counties. Children's Odyssey has been supporting children with disabilities for over 30 years. I have been with Children's Odyssey for 22 years.

THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SUPPORT LAST YEAR!

I want to thank Representative Gattine and committee co-sponsors for bringing the bill forward, as well as the entire committee for taking the first step to establish an equitable payment for the critical educational services that special purpose preschools provide to hundreds of Maine's most vulnerable children each year.

LD 2120 will ensure that we do not lose this momentum and ensures that the interim payment will continue into the next school year, or until such time that the daily rate is developed and implemented.

At a time when Maine is out of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and hundreds of families and children are already on waitlists for specialized early education services, we cannot afford to lose well established and well-respected programs and hundreds of spots that could change the lives and trajectory for children with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Cannon'.

Tina M. Cannon, M.Ed.
Director of Operations
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