

Testimony of Christine Mercier

In support of

***LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers***  
***sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson***

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Christine Mercier. I am an Owner/Director, and I live in Livermore. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

As a daycare provider, I can only accept so many children according to my licensed capacity. My private payer parents have to pay for the spot their child takes, regardless of how many hours the child comes. With the subsidy, I only get what the child comes. This puts me at a financial deficit.. I count on the money from all of the spots. This is making it so I do not want to accept subsidy children anymore. I know that many daycares feel this way and many said they don't accept it anymore now because of this. I know parents are already having a hard time to find daycare, and if more of us refuse to accept the program, those parents will suffer the consequences.

With the large increase in expenses, my daycare doesn't have a lot of extra money left after everything is paid. If I have something happen, like a broken furnace, etc, I will not have the money to replace it. Having the funds available to help in an emergency situation would definitely make the difference of staying open or closing.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.