

Testimony of Stacie Archibald  
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 Stacie Archibald. I work in family child care, and I live in South Portland. 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 childcare provider my annual loss when taking subsidy can range from \$5000-\$9000 a year. Payment based on attendance is a factor in this loss as well as a market rate that cannot sustain the cost of quality staff.

I love supporting my community and working families however to sustainability run a business I have had to reduce my subsidy enrollment to 1 spot.

Over the pandemic I enrolled more children on subsidy (3-4) due to the relief funds paying per enrollment & the grant stipends we received.

I was able to increase staff wages, reach a level 5 on the QRIS and improve my program quality.

Since these funds have ceased I cannot reduce my staff wages so I've had to reduce the amount of subsidy slots available.

As a family childcare the repairs on my home serve to support the business. This has been the only sustainable model I could run a childcare business on with the limited resources I had when I opened.

However the wear and tear on a home with 12 children and all their parents - up to 25 people in and out each day is daunting.

Centers face significant challenges in keeping up with repairs and emergencies and an emergency fund would support the sustainability and continuity of care in Maine.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.