

Testimony of Dr. Pamela Thompson
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 Dr. Pamela Thompson. I am a Director, Graduate Online Education, and I live in Waterville. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

If the Covid pandemic illustrated anything about our economic vulnerability and its ever present labor shortage in the state of Maine, it showed in brilliant highlights the fragile infrastructure of a essential workforce, often hidden in plain sight. The network of accessible, licensed, and quality childcare professionals.

One of the major reasons that any business fails is lack of sustainability and profit. The child care industry is a chronically fragile and often dependent on less than a 1% profit margin which is often generated on enrollment and paid for by families, who have already reported are strapped financially to send their children to childcare.

The topic that is seldom discussed or raised until LD 2199, is our support for this essential service (child care); this bill should compel us to provide sufficient fiscal support for the continuation of child care operations not based solely upon what families can afford, but what it truly costs for a child care business owner to maintain services as congruent with enrollment.

We would not, one would hope, allow necessary public services be forced to an abrupt closure without at least attempting to provide some sort of moderate support, if fewer fires, or heart attacks, or crimes occurred. I would ask us to pause for a minute to consider this concern and to vote in favor of LD 2199. This bill will strengthen an essential public service and will, in turn, allow the child care businesses in your own communities across the state to contribute in a more significant way in providing a quality experience for families who work and depend upon reliable care and education for their young children.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.