

Testimony of Karen Mook
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 Karen Mook. I am Board President, Coastal Kids Preschool, and I live in Newcastle. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

Coastal Kids Preschool provides excellent early childhood education and child care to children from families who live in Lincoln County. Tuition revenue covers only 70% of operating costs. The fundraising demands are stressful and have periodically placed the school at significant risk for closing. The school is working hard to develop a sustainable financial plan while remaining true to the mission of providing education and care for children of all income levels and abilities. The school is committed to providing an inclusive setting for children who have special needs. State funding that provides predictable revenue would be an important improvement, helping move us toward achieving financial sustainability.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.