

Testimony of Cassandra Howell

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 Cassandra Howell. I am a teacher, and I live in Brunswick. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

Child care programs are the needed foundation for society. Child care subsidy reimbursement is part of the stability needed for them to remain open and functioning at a quality level. Supporting them with stable funding is the least we can do. Every one of us has someone in our lives who rely on childcare in order to go to work knowing we have quality care for our children who are a part of our society.

In the case of a child care center facing an unexpected cost, having access to emergency funding could mean keeping the center from closing down. That means jobs that aren't lost, families who aren't having to scramble looking for space at other centers who have year-long wait lists. It means those numerous families aren't missing work, hurting the many businesses they work for. Childcare centers are the foundation of our communities and if even one of those foundational bricks crack, we see the effects on our community instantly and in the long run.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.