

Testimony of Rita Sieracki
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 Rita Sieracki. I am an Owner/Director, and I live in Durham. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

The subsidy program's current setup does not work for our preschool. Not only do the reimbursement rates result in a loss of income for us, but we are losing additional income with the reimbursement being based upon attendance and not enrollment. Currently our school only accepts subsidy from one parent, who is also an employee of the school. If we accepted subsidy from other families we would not be able to appropriately compensate our staff, who are already vastly underpaid.

Currently our monthly expenses are about equal to the income we bring in. Living on such thin profit margins (if there is even any profit) results in a constant state of stress. If an emergency expense or hardship occurred, we would need to close. Emergency relief funds would prevent a closure from happening.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.