

Testimony of Sandra Marshall

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 Sandra Marshall. I am an Owner of a Family Childcare, and I live in Buxton. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

I have 4 children on subsidy. While I did encourage one family to apply, I will not take any more due to the loss of income. I lose about \$200 between the market rate discount and attendance vs enrollment. When I first got licensed the state was paying enrollment vs attendance and I was willing to take families because loss of income wasn't as great. Now I just lose too much money to accept any more families on subsidy. Finances are tight being a family childcare program anyway, never mind losing \$130-230 a week. I can't afford it.

Last month, I had to go a week without a paycheck to pay all the bills. My food costs alone have gone up over \$200 a month since last year. It's not related but the CACFP started going back to the tier system in July, so I lose another \$300 a month there. It's really hard to make ends meet to provide the things the children need, pay staff, and not raise rates on families.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.