

Testimony of Shauna Burke
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 Shauna Burke . I am a Board Memeber of The Little School House, and I live in Greenville. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

The board hires staffing & does weekly hours based on the staff to child ratio set by state of Maine. We have to pay our staff regardless if children are in attendance or not. Being reimbursed for only days in attendance often puts us in a deficit and creates difficulty with budget planning as state funds end up fluctuate when into being paid based on in attendance rates. Private rates are set and provide us with the ability to budget plan with much more accuracy. Stable pay rates in the subsidy program would ensure parents are given equal access to childcare & our ability as a board to correctly do our budget planning based on enrollment not attendance (after the fact budget planning).

As stated above. With staff to child ration needing to be met. Competitive pay wages for employees & overhead operational cost, The Little School house operates on a small budget. It is essential that we are able to bill out on slot ratio's and not attendance rates. We are often not able to fill slots when a child is not in attendance making loss margin on state care enrollment slots.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.