

Testimony of Terri Crocker  
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 Terri Crocker. I am a Center Owner/Director and Teacher, and I live in Bath. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

Owning a childcare center with a heart is hard. We work so hard to offer quality affordable care for our communities. We shouldn't have to choose to only offer our services to families who can afford it. Not having cost of care pay and straight forward payments is horrible. Why is that we have to feel as providers we have to discriminate families and children who all work hard and deserve our care without having to pick self pay families so our programs can stay open and be successful. Clearly the rate differences between counties and households vary. We need to provide our amazing services to all families and children. We as providers deserve to make livable wages which come with equal pay and equal reimbursement from all levels of care. It doesn't seem right if a family chooses to stay home. I'm expected to micromanage there subsidies and not be reimbursed. My expenses aren't changing my pay shouldn't either. We need to do better to support providers and families. It saddens me that after 30 years caring for our community that closing doors seems to be the option but with pay increases, food increases, and all other expenses skyrocketing it may be the only option for a lot of us. We have expanded the income guidelines for families great but with out full reimbursement providers WILL not be able to afford to take on the overhead that comes with more families qualifying so then more children go without quality programs and families struggle STILL.

Yes absolutely emergency funding is something that should be there for childcare programs it's like the rainy day fund what if? What if there are 2 programs in 1 town what if 1 had a catastrophic incident how do we move them get the program running so the families can get back to work and businesses can run. The economy depends on a strong childcare system we need to ensure that happens make it a priority.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.