

No cuts to Child services

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to reject any cuts to child care, and food and housing assistance that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families in our state, and to the economic security of everyone in Maine.

As a former teacher, and as a parent and grandparent, I know how important it is to provide the supports families need to raise healthy, secure children ready for learning. If we want to reduce many of the problems we see in society, we must invest early in our children....our future.

Making investments to improve Child Development Services (CDS), which delivers early intervention services for young children, provides a strong foundation that will ensure better futures for them and their families and our State.

These services help to reach children at an early age helping them be ready for kindergarten. They also help them learn more positive ways to interact with their peers, and reduce the needs for special education services during their school years.

We can do better, and the investment proposed in this year's budget will provide the critical funding necessary to make the changes needed to improve this system of support.

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