



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Meyer, Sen. Baldacci and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to share my support for LD 2230, **An Act to Change Department of Health and Human Services Rules Regarding Youth Camps to Major Substantive Rules**. This bill will address some of the concerns that many of the summer camps in my district have shared with me.

Maine Summer camps contribute in a significant way to Maine's economy, and to the local economy in my area in an outsized way. There are at least 14 summer camps in my district. Each of these camps has a different focus, but there is a universal truth about camp. Camp helps kids grow and learn to get along, to develop confidence and leadership.

Summer camps are unique entities and their procedures are not the same as other entities that they are often compared with: schools or child care facilities. Summer camps deserve their own category and rules that are designed specifically for them with their input.

I hope that this committee will recognize the uniqueness of summer camps and work with the camps and the Department to come up with rules that are reasonable, accomplish the Department's goals of safety while not creating undue burden on camps.

The summer of 2024 should be "The Best Summer Ever!" if Maine's summer camps can hire and train staff and have rules that allow them to operate safely.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JF'.

Rep. Jessica Fay