

February 12, 2025

Maine State Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0005

**Subject: Written Testimony to the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs - LD210 (Part A) Public Hearing on February 13, 2025**

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

I am a parent of a child enrolled in a local daycare in South Portland, and I am deeply concerned about the proposed cuts in Governor Mills' budget, which would reduce funding for child care educator wages (A-302), Head Start programs (A-331), and eliminate the Child Care Employment Award (A-302). These cuts threaten the quality of care our children receive and the stability of the child care workforce.

Please stand with families and child care providers by opposing these cuts. Our children's future depends on quality care and education. Along with our workforce.

My husband and I both work full time and must work full time to be able to afford our home, heat, clothing, and food for our family of four. We depend on having quality and reliable full time child care for our daughter while we work and we feel that is being threatened by the potential loss of funding to the Child Care Educator Wage Salary Supplement Program, cutting Head Start programs, and the elimination of the Child Care Employment Award.

I understand that there needs to be reductions in the state's budget but I feel that these particular cuts are incredibly dangerous when there is already a critical shortage of available child care seats across the state. Losing access to affordable child care harms Maine's working families, and Maine businesses, when we have an aging population and workforce shortages across many industries. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, I hope you support the families you represent by opposing these budget cuts to child care programs.

Sincerely,

Angela Viola

Scarborough, ME 04074