



Lifting People.
Strengthening Community.

Statement from Diane Dickerson, CEO, Bangor Region YMCA:

"I'm CEO of the Bangor Region YMCA and I'm deeply worried about the proposed budget cuts to Childcare Worker stipends and the Employment Award program. As the largest facility-based childcare program in the Greater Bangor Region, our YMCA is on the frontlines of the struggle to hire and keep qualified childcare workers. There are already significant shortages in Maine's childcare staffing industry. I'm absolutely convinced that enacting these cuts will make recruiting and retaining our childcare workers even harder. Our Y and many other childcare programs in Maine did their very best to help our State when Covid-19 hit, keeping our doors open so we could provide emergency childcare for doctors, nurses, and other frontline workers during the pandemic. Many of our staff did this at very real risk to themselves. But they came to work because they knew how critical it was to provide a safe, secure educational environment for our youngest, most vulnerable citizens and their working families. We ask so much of our childcare staff every single day. These proposed budget cuts are no way to honor and reward their commitment. Let's keep our highly qualified and compassionate childcare workers in Maine by treating them the way they should be treated. I join my fellow YMCA CEOs by saying: Please do NOT support these harmful budget cuts."


Diane Dickerson, CEO

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