

Jenna Welch
New Gloucester
LD 210

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Jenna Welch. I am an infant/toddler and live in New Gloucester.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Just 3 months ago I returned to childcare. I have been wanting to get back to my first love of infants and toddlers and utilize my BS in Child Development. But the salary always prevented me from doing so. When I learned of the Wage Supplement Program I very quickly applied to the best program I know of. And I couldn't be happier. It is incredibly rewarding to be working with children again. However, if my supplemental income is cut I will not be able to continue working in child care. It will be heartbreaking for me and honestly, not fair to the children I care for. The field of child care needs educated caregivers who understand child development and can support them in the best ways possible. Please allow us to continue with our passion of providing quality care by keeping the Supplement Program.