

Michelle McClure
Buxton
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 Michelle McClure. I am a daycare owner and live in Buxton.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This cut would mean that I would have to raise my childcare rates in order to afford to stay open. Parents are stretched thin already with the rising costs of everything and I'm not sure they can afford rising childcare costs.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. While this doesn't affect me directly I feel for the families that this will affect. Head start is a necessary program and I feel that cuts should be made elsewhere and not with such a valuable program.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. While this will not impact me directly, again.. I have a hard time understanding why this program is being targeted when there is such a need for it. I feel strongly that child care is not the place to make cuts! This is a very tough profession with ever changing rules and no benefits. I think if these cuts are made you will see daycare businesses close. I've been in business for 30 years and with all the changes have thought long and hard a few times about closing my business. The parents have kept me going by telling me I'm how valued I am but I'm not sure if I were to raise my rates if I could keep my slots filled. Times are tough for everyone and I feel for working families. Please consider not cutting these funds.