

Ashley Patry
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 Ashley Patry. I am a teacher and live in Buxton.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. I have become reliant on the wage supplement. Without it, I would not be able to afford health insurance. The cost of living has increased and wages have not.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. The lowest income families should be the last to lose funding. Many families rely on these programs to benefit their children.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. You can see how important the childcare award is based on the waitlist. There would not be a waitlist if there was not a need. Everyone deserves to be able to have affordable care for their children.