

Kaylee Dodge
Richmond
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 Kaylee Dodge. I am a toddler and preschool teacher and live in Richmond.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Childcare educators are so important for society. We work tirelessly to nurture the needs of young children so families can work. We shape lives of children and build a love of learning and a trust that carries them through their education and careers. Childcare teachers should be valued highly. There will be better quality educators through better pay and a system that values their impact on society.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Families with low income REALLY need child services and family supports. Head Start is often the only option for many families and it needs to be fully funded. Families need quality support with educators that feel valued and lifted enough to give the proper care that's needed. This boosts the economy and provides families of our state with a healthy navigation and informed beginning.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. Child care is an essential element to boost economy. Funding for childcare is crucial in order for families to work and to provide top quality performance. Childcare workers also need childcare without added stress of a financial burden.