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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 Amanda Pulos. I am a childcare director and live in Westbrook.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This cut would effect me and so many others because we already do not get paid what we deserve. The wage supplements have helped tremendously. I've been able to pay bills that I would have not been able to pay if it wasn't for the wage supplement. In an industry where we already don't get paid enough, it's sad that cutting funding for us would even be a possibility.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. So many families live paycheck to paycheck. Families rely on Head Start programs to be able to send their child somewhere safe so that they are able to go to work or school to further their education. If we cut funding, where are all of these families supposed to go? What are they supposed to do? My fear is that parents are going to be desperate for someone to watch their child and unsafe, uneducated people will be responsible for watching over and teaching these children!

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. I oppose this cut because again, in a field where we do not get paid what we are deserving of, this was a way to help Teachers stay in the field. Childcare is already hard enough to find and making it impossible to pay for it because you are an Early Childhood Educator and doing a profession you love, is just not fair!