

Tina Hobbs  
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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 Tina Hobbs. I am a director and live in Sanford.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Educators, teachers, caregivers, etc. already don't earn enough to survive. Many people are not interested in working in child care, because they need to make more money. They decide to work in a job, that pays more, but they don't enjoy as much. Working in child care is rewarding, children are our future. Educating children is essential. Without teachers, educators, caregivers, etc. children will suffer and won't receive the education they need and deserve. Teachers, educators and caregivers need to be paid accordingly for the important work they do. Cuts will absolutely make more people quit in this occupation and that is detrimental to children and their education and parents, that won't find child care. Child care is 100% needed and should not be messed with. We, the teachers, educators and caregivers deserve so much more!

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. This is insanity to even think about cutting from Head Start or any other Child care funds. Children are our future! Without funds there is no child care. No child care, parents can't go to work.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. This program is so needed! Employees finally receive a relief and now it is supposed to be taken away again. Many employees work in child care, because they can bring their children to work with them. Child care providers, teachers, educators, etc don't earn a lot of money. Having to pay for child care while working in a low paid occupation is almost impossible. This employment award is so important!