

Susan Partridge  
Scarborough  
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 Susan Partridge. I am a retired social worker and live in Scarborough.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Child care providers already receive too little pay. A reduction would be foolish and could lead to declines in number of providers. Families need more support.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Early childhood education like Head Start are proven to be beneficial to healthy child development. Cutting services is a bad idea; this proposal is very costly and unwise.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. Again, cutting services and benefits that are likely to reduce the number of care providers is unwise. Young children need the highest quality of care in order to flourish. Long term benefits are very positive. We would support the state of Maine by promoting healthy citizens.