

Tiffanie Blye
Limington
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 Tiffanie Blye. I am a teacher and live in Limington.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. As an educated teacher making an average wage this cut could force me to move out of my field and find another job. I love what I do. I'm good at what I do. Unfortunately, it doesn't pay well. The supplement helps and keeps me motivated to continue learning new skills.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. I helped start an Early Head Start program from the ground up. As a home visitor I know first hand how valuable teaching parents skills is. The relationship and trust you build with families is amazing. This program is vital to keeping families and children to have a positive look at school and education.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. This program doesn't affect me. I wish it was around when I had 4 young children. Many of my fellow teachers are in desperate need of this help. As educators we don't make enough to cover the cost of our own kids receiving service. This forces great teachers to go out of their trained field and work a job they hate to make money.