

Kathryn Cochrane
Bowdoinham
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 Kathryn Cochrane. I am a Head Start teacher and live in Bowdoinham.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This wage has allowed me to stay in this enjoyable profession. I love my job, I am eager to support my families and help their children grow.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Our families deserve the best as do their children. They need a safe loving environment where they can thrive. Low income families deserve to be able to get affordable childcare. These children deserve a Head Start to a successful future. This is their beginning start to education. They deserve a good foundation that will help them throughout their school years. Please!

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. We have many teachers with little children and if this program were to stop we would probably lose many great teachers.