

Christine Drown
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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 Christine Drown. I am a stay at home parent and live in South Portland.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This cut would be extremely detrimental to the already underfunded hardworking educators. There is a major deficit in retention, and our kids are suffering because schools like my child's cannot keep good quality teachers. If this proposed budget passed it would be a ripple effect and would have major impact not only on the educators, but our children.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. The proposed cut would be another major mistake. This allows programs to provide crucial early education services to low income families. Cutting funding would make it so even fewer children who need these services have access to them.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. People who are working in education already are some of the lowest paying professionals. As someone who has a degree in education I could go back to work at my daughter's school and be making less than a fast food employee, with thousands of dollars spent in funding my education. Paying for childcare is nearly impossible for many working families. For those working in the same field this cut would make it so many schools would lose quality educators that otherwise could not afford to work, and also have their own children in childcare services.