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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 Kimberly Marquardt. I am a Special Ed teacher/BHP and live in Windham.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. It would greatly decrease my ability to pay my bills, groceries and quality of life. Therefore harder to keep this occupation I love and am able to provide care for so many children in need. This is not a job everyone can or wants to do and we are already short staffed. Please help us to help these children!

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. We have many families that need and utilize these services and supports. This would be devastating for these families and their children. This would also greatly impact their future entering kindergarten, because early intervention is key to their success.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. I greatly oppose because many of my amazing colleagues utilize this program to stay in this field and raise children. It would be devastating for them to lose this and have to leave this already short staffed workforce.