

Laura Skelton Pomelow
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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 Laura Skelton Pomelow. I am a teacher and live in Casco.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. I have worked for seventeen years in childcare. Head start, non profit and private organizations. The first five years of life are critical to support children and families. With these cuts, staff available to support these milestone years would diminish.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Without head start services, many families would wind up in dangerous situations - homelessness, lack of healthcare, hygiene and starvation.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. How can you cut a program that evidently shows how desperately a program like this is needed in its infancy? If Maine wants to continue high quality programs we must continue to treat the providers as critical employees.