

Susan DesRoberts
Biddeford
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 Susan M. DesRoberts. I am an owner and live in Biddeford.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This Child Care Wage Supplement Program has helped me maintain the great quality teachers that I employ. They still do not get the kind of compensation they deserve. The cost of operating a childcare center is overwhelming. There always seems to be more expenses that creep up every month. We are often asked to renew policies, provide changes to our environments, having tests done for our wells with water safety precautions. This is all overwhelming while trying to keep childcare as affordable as possible for the families involved in this program.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. This elimination would impact the amount of teachers that can be hired. Many of the teachers employed in childcare are parents of young children and often the second income for their families.