

Christine Mercier
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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 Mercier. I am a Director/Owner and live in Livermore.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Hiring child care staff has been very difficult over the last 4 years. The bonus money that has been awarded has helped to get and retain quality workers. My overhead is so big that i can not afford to do this myself and I am worried I will lose quality staff if they lose the bonus money. Daycares are closing all the time and this money has helped me to stay open by having happy staff.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. This is a huge help to employees working at child cares to be able to pay for their children to attend the daycare. This helps the daycare because we lose so much money when we offer free child care but that is really the only benefit to working at a daycare.