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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 Kelsey Wise. I am a Catering Manager and live in Randolph, Maine.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Childcare workers are woefully underpaid. I worked in early childhood education for 12 years before leaving the field to find higher paying work and have seen many great teachers do the same, unfortunately.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Head Start is a lifeline for low income families, to have a safe place for their children to go while they work. Many children receive services through Head Start as well, and we've seen research time and again that early intervention is the key to future success.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. One of the main reasons I left the childcare field was the costs associated with sending my own child to school. Paying educators fairly and allowing them to provide for their families is only going to lead to a stronger workforce for the industry.