

Alyson Swift
Portland
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 Alyson Swift. I am a stay at home parent and live in Portland.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. As someone who previously worked in early education, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to survive on the low wages. This forces quality workers out of the industry and negatively impacts programs and the children they serve.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. It's hard to think of a group more vulnerable and more deserving of help than low income children. I absolutely oppose anything less than increases in funding for Head Start.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. I stay home with my kids because, as someone who had previously been working in early Ed and childcare, it is more cost effective than working and paying every cent I make to childcare. I have a bachelor's degree in Developmental Psychology, ample previous experience, and a love of early education- I am a quality employee that is kept out of the field because of the insane cost of childcare and the criminally low wages of the employees providing it.