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Thomaston  
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 Olivia McFarland. I am a Early childhood educator and live in Thomaston.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. This program has made it possible for me to stay in early childhood education while making ends meet. Without the supplement program I would either need to move out of a job I love or get a second job to feed my family.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. Families that are accessing Head Start are getting vital information and assistance to bridge the ever growing gap. Without these programs children would fall through the gaps, some would go without proper nutrition daily, and most families wouldn't be able to work without the care their children receive.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. Eliminating this program would mean I would have to leave my job, a job that I love and have been at for eight years to stay home with my two young children, and most likely lose our house due to the loss in income. They attend a wonderful facility that provides socialization and early education while I get to work with special education early education students. They are happy and loved while at their childcare and I simply couldn't afford to send them without this financial support with increasing prices of the world.