

Amanda Sokolow
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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 Amanda Sokolow. I work in sales and live in Scarborough.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. In order to attract and retain qualified, educated individuals who are tasked with a demanding role that requires them to care for our precious children these centers need our support. Without them they continue to close or continue to rise prices that are unattainable for many.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. All children should have equal support regardless of ability to afford. These early services can make such a difference.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. We need to start putting education first in this country to retain amazing teachers to help raise our youth. We've seen so many of our children's teachers leave after they've had children because it's no longer financially feasible.