

Katherine Ryan
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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 Katherine Ryan. I am a Supply Chain Analyst and live in Gorham.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. The shortage of childcare staff WITH the supplemental support has had a negative impact on my career as our childcare facility has had to cut their hours to ensure coverage in all classrooms. If there are less educators due to these cuts, further cuts like this will have a negative impact on Maine's working families. We are paying a very high cost for childcare and cuts like this make it increasingly challenging for working parents to afford daycare and send their children to quality daycare programs.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. I worked directly with a Head Start Program for 2 years and saw first hand how critical it is to close the educational gap for children who need additional support. The health screenings and nutrition programs that are woven into these programs make them a valuable resource for Maine children.