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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 Terri Crocker. I am a Owner/Director and live in Bath.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. No Cuts To Childcare

What a slap in the face! The idea that the new Budget would cut the Workforce supplement wages for the Early Childhood Providers through Maine and lesson the availablilty to help fund the children of the workforce with affordable childcare for their children while also cutting funding to our one program that brings lower income families an opportunity for early intervention learning experiences from infants through entering school years !Head Start has been our leader in providing early education for our families while using the family learning approach including the families needs to support the children they care for.

As a childcare owner for 20 years and an early childhood professional for 30 I honestly felt like we were finally being heard. We all realized in 2020 that the economy needed us. Businesses needed to run families need to work children needed to stay socializing and schools closed which put us childcare programs on alert we masked up we opened up offered remote learning to our kids we covid tested every week installed air purification systems more hand washing sinks everything to keep children healthy and our communities families working

It's hard enough to keep up with staffing and try to meet the needs of our communities and now a budget cut to the workforce behind the workforce seriously this is what will put the childcare crisis into full swing

The outcomes will certainly be  
increase in fees for families

The Programs cutting back on availability of slots

Possibly closures of programs

Businesses losing employees

Families losing jobs

Children losing the opportunities for social emotional development and early learning experiences

For me personally this is what could sink my business my passion my goal has always been to offer an affordable loving environment for my communities families to bring their children and be able to employ passionate professionals to enrich my children with love and stability this has become so very difficult and with these cuts it will most likely close my doors because meeting all the licensing requirements will be a huge challenge and staffing is already hard and wages are low

Please consider supporting our needs with No Cuts To Childcare

No Cuts To Head Start