

Elizabeth Williams
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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 Elizabeth Williams. I am a Mom, Financial Advisor and live in South Portland, Maine.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. I oppose these cuts because there is already a shortage of qualified individuals in the private early childcare field. There is no public option available and working parents rely heavily on the availability of consistent caregivers in order to remain gainfully employed and participate in the economy. Money in the hands of childcare workers is money in the economy. Taking money away will have a deleterious effect on working families, the quality of workers facilities are able to retain and ultimately on OUR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. The children of families in the lowest decile of income are at the highest risk. Let's not give up on them.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. If the fact that there was a waitlist after three months doesn't indicate how profound the need is, let's break it down. If I can earn \$35,000 working my tail off taking care of other peoples kids but need to pay \$18,000 to have care for my own child while I work or I can lower my income, reduce my marginal tax rate, rely on my spouses income and qualify for public benefits while taking care of and spending quality time with my own kids, WHY would I chose the former if the later is economically viable?