

Katelyn Connolly
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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 Katelyn Connolly. I am a Sonographer and live in South Portland.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Child educators don't make enough as it is. They work so hard to keep our children in a safe and welcoming environment. It takes a special person to be a child educator, these people do it because it is their passion. Making cuts like this will be detrimental. We cannot afford to run these programs with the cuts.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. I oppose this cut! These families need help and services. Head start services make such a difference in the behavior of children. We are not helping anyone by cutting this from families and children.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. I oppose it. Childcare providers should have this offered to them. They should be able to have their child's care paid for so they can work at the same or other daycare their child goes to. Daycare is a huge expense and these providers should have assistance for it.