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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 Kevin Beling. I am an IT specialist 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. We have been through several preschools due to staffing shortages and have to hire a nanny for our kid on an IEP because there aren't enough hours. Childcare workers are unbelievably necessary not just so we can work but to enrich our kids at the most critical time in our life. Further cuts will have cascading effects on families like ours.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. This is beyond cruel in light of what is happening at the Federal level.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. The shortages are destroying lives. This isn't a cost, it's an investment in our children. It has a ripple effect on families and businesses.