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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 Nancy Whiteside. I am a LCSW psychotherapist and live in Brunswick.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. I am a social worker and work with people who are dedicated child care educators who are paid little enough, let alone to reduce their wages further. There is a scarcity of quality day care available and this will make it even worse. I strongly oppose these cuts.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. I am a social worker who used to volunteer in Head Start and know that there is research about how much it improves the lives and futures of the children and families it serves. I am strongly opposed to this cut.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. It is very hard to retain child care workers. I know two people who were exceptional in their field, one had to leave after 5 years because of the poor pay and another who is a single parent who could really benefit from this program. I sincerely hope it is not eliminated and am glad it was created.