

Mary Kay Hallett
Hermon
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 Mary Kay Hallett. I am a Head Start director and live in Hermon.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. We have been in a staffing crisis for several years and have just begun to make progress. This proposed cut would not only impact our current staff but our ability to hire on the staff needed to run our programs safely.

I am opposed to the proposed \$3.6 million annual/\$7.2 million biennial cuts to general funds for Head Start. This proposed cut would impact our services that we are able to provide to our states most vulnerable population. Head Start provides services to entire families, giving them resources to support them to reach their goals, and to become part of the working community, ending the cycle of poverty.

I am opposed to the proposed \$2.5 million annually/\$5 million biennial cuts and elimination of the Child Care Employment Award. The fact that this award had a waitlist within 3 months of creating it, shows the need for it. Again, we have been in a staffing crisis for several years, anything that can help to ease this crisis is a necessity. We need families to be able to work and go back to school, but they need quality childcare in order to do so.