

Graham Hults  
Portland  
LD 210

Dear members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I write to you as a concerned parent and taxpayer regarding a recent proposal to cut a significant amount of money from the Child Care Salary Supplement Program budget. Please do the right thing tomorrow and vote NO to proposed cuts.

My daughter, age 3, is enrolled in a nonprofit childcare center located on Peaks Island (the Peaks Island Children's Workshop). "The Workshop" is a critical piece of infrastructure that allows working families to continue to live on Peaks Island.

As someone who was raised on the island, I have seen the island demographic change drastically over the years, including many wealthy individuals who don't have a stake in increasing childcare costs. As Maine has gotten "discovered" over the last several years, I think this is a trend that is happening across the state.

The budget cuts proposed by this legislation not only endanger Peaks Island, but all of Maine. Just as Peaks Island has become a refuge for those looking for tranquility and a unique way of life, so has the rest of our state.

To eliminate, or even propose slightly cutting, funding to support the caregivers that look after Maine's future leaders, business owners, politicians, and workers, endangers the way of life that has been established by the generations before us.

Maine is a unique, albeit delicate state, that still needs a strong working class to help provide the enterprise that drives Maine's economy and makes it a haven for those that choose to retire or seek refuge here.

Childcare should be recognized as an important and necessary expenditure that helps families continue to contribute to Maine's future and prosperity. It drives what makes our legacy: a state of hardworking families and a great place to live. Please, for all of us who choose to live here, vote no to cut funding to support childcare.

-Graham Hults