



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

17 March 2025

Testimony in Opposition Against of LD 202 An Act to Increase the Number of Children a Family Child Care Provider May Care for Without Having to Be Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Service

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and the distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Nancy Cronin, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC).¹ Please accept this testimony **in opposition** to An Act to Increase the Number of Children a Family Child Care Provider May Care for Without Having to Be Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Service.

Childcare providers fill an important role in the development of young children. Studies have shown that higher quality care correlates with better socialization and better outcomes in later years of schooling. Childcare workers are also on the first line to catch delays in development. The importance of early intervention is proven. It is critical that childcare workers are skilled and knowledgeable in identifying typical developing milestones so that developmental delays can be caught quickly, and families encouraged to access appropriate early intervention.

Without oversight and opportunities for training, providers can't fulfill their duties in this sphere, and there is a great risk that some children will be left behind. The National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation, has taken a similar stance as their quality standards require that professionals keep up to date and provide quality early identification and early intervention methods.²

We at the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council believe that oversight of childcare providers by the state is crucial to maintaining standards of care that will offer the best chances of success for every child, whether they are in a daycare with many other children or just a few. We ask that this law **not** be changed, and that oversight of childcare providers be strengthened, not weakened.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

¹ Councils on Developmental Disabilities were created through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in 1970. Maine's DD Council has been advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities for over 50 years. The DD Council is a federally funded, independent organization with members from across the state, including persons with disabilities, family members, and representatives of public and private agencies which provide services and/or funding for services for individuals with developmental disabilities. As required in federal law, we are involved in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities, with the goal that individuals with developmental and other disabilities of all ages are fully included, integrated, and involved in their communities and the decisions impacting their lives.

² NAFCC (2023) Quality Standards Accessed on 3/20/2023 at [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://nafcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Standards_5-Business-Professional-Practices.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://nafcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Standards_5-Business-Professional-Practices.pdf)