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LD 1421

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Lindsay Corcoran. I was born and raised in Falmouth, and now my husband and I are raising our two children there as well.

From 2018 to 2023, our children attended a local childcare facility. Last December, a parent whose child was still enrolled contacted me with disturbing information. She shared that my daughter had been named in internal messages between the daycare owner and an employee—messages about giving children melatonin at nap time, without parental knowledge or consent. This message dated back to 2022.

I was never informed by the provider or by DHHS. I only found out because a former employee came forward and that parent had the courage to contact me.

A formal complaint was filed with DHHS in August 2024 by other families whose children were also affected. Since then, months have gone by. Investigations and appeals are ongoing. Yet, no public notice has been made. The daycare remains open, continues to advertise, and is still enrolling new children. Anyone looking it up on the state's ChildCareChoices.ME site would have no idea this ever happened.

What's even more concerning is the inconsistency in how DHHS communicated with families. Some parents received official letters stating their children were victims of "mild to moderate child abuse." Others—like me—received nothing, even though my child was specifically named in the provider's own messages.

LD 1421 addresses this gap in communication. It would ensure families are notified in a timely way when a facility is under investigation for serious violations. And I strongly support Senator Pierce's amendment, which would make sure that DHHS—an impartial authority—is responsible for these notifications, not the provider being investigated.

Parents deserve transparency, especially when it comes to the safety of their children. LD 1421 is a commonsense step toward that goal. I respectfully urge you to vote "ought to pass" and support the amendment to make it even stronger.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Maine families.