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Testimony of Meg Helming before  
the Committee on Taxation  
in support of

**LD 203: An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Employer-supported Child Care**  
April 16, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and honorable members of the Committee on Taxation, my name is Meg Helming and I'm the Chief Operating Officer at the YMCA Alliance of Northern New England, which represents the 15 YMCAs in Maine. We support LD 203: *An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Employer-supported Child Care*.

The 15 YMCAs in Maine are collectively the largest childcare provider in the state, serving children ages six weeks through adolescence. Every day, YMCAs across Maine provide vital childcare services to working families — delivering early education and out-of-school programming that supports child development and helps parents maintain steady employment. But across the state, we continue to see that access to affordable, quality childcare remains a barrier for too many families, and a challenge for employers seeking to recruit and retain employees.

LD 203 would create a state income tax credit for businesses that provide financial support for their employees' childcare, whether through direct subsidies, contracting with licensed providers, or operating on-site facilities. The goal is to encourage employer investment in childcare as a way to support working families and strengthen Maine's workforce.

At the YMCA, we believe that strong communities are built on strong families—and for families to thrive, parents and caregivers must have access to safe, reliable, and affordable childcare. But we cannot meet this need alone, and Maine employers increasingly recognize that childcare is not just a family issue, but a workforce issue. One powerful example is the Bath Area Family YMCA's partnership with Bath Iron Works to expand childcare availability for BIW employees and the broader Midcoast community. This collaboration — supported by local government, community organizations, and the private sector — is a model for how employers can step up to support their workforce and help address Maine's childcare shortage.

LD 203 would build on this kind of partnership by offering employers a concrete incentive to invest in solutions. Whether it's supporting their employees directly, partnering with providers like the YMCA, or building new on-site facilities, the tax credit proposed in this bill sends a clear message: employer investment in childcare is good for business, good for families, and good for Maine.

The YMCA Alliance strongly supports this bill, and we respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective, and for your commitment to supporting Maine's working families.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Helming

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