

Manufacturers Association of **Maine**

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13 April 2025

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Thank you Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. My name is Mike Roughton and I am writing on behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine in support of LD 483, "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses." This legislation represents a critical investment in both Maine's workforce and its economic development, with the childcare infrastructure support outlined in the bill being especially important for families, businesses, and communities across our state.

As Maine continues to recover and grow, ensuring that our families have access to high-quality, affordable childcare is paramount. With many parents in the workforce facing barriers to finding appropriate childcare, this bill provides a timely and necessary solution. By allocating \$100 million for childcare infrastructure grants, LD 483 will support the development and expansion of childcare facilities, a crucial resource for working families. We firmly believe that this bill will help alleviate some of the pressures that businesses and parents face by providing the necessary infrastructure to expand the availability of quality childcare.

The allocation of funds to both large- and small-scale childcare projects ensures that this program is accessible to a wide range of organizations, including businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, and others that are eager to invest in their communities. The matching requirement, which encourages private-sector involvement, ensures that both public and private entities are aligned in their efforts to address the childcare crisis and strengthen Maine's economy. Additionally, the exemption for smaller projects from the matching requirement allows smaller-scale initiatives to thrive including our important infrastructure of family childcare businesses, ensuring that even modest improvements can make a significant impact.

During the dialogue on the childcare components of MAME's Pass Thru Entity Tax bill last year, we pointed out that assistance to small and medium-sized employers, all of whom are challenged with staffing levels below their desired levels is a critical need. While certainly not specific to Maine, McKinsey and Company reports that "one in three moms are considering downshifting careers or leaving the workforce due to the lack of quality, affordable childcare" which most certainly adds fuel to an already raging fire. As conceptualized, LD483 seeks to support these very challenged entities necessary resources to both retain their



existing workforce, as well as attract those currently on the sidelines due to the lack of affordable childcare.

By supporting the construction, retrofitting, and renovation of childcare facilities, LD 483 will enable Maine to meet the growing demand for childcare services. This is not just a matter of providing for our children but also ensuring that Maine's economy can continue to grow and thrive as more parents are able to participate fully in the workforce.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support LD 483 and help make Maine a more prosperous place for families, businesses, and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted, . .



Mike Roughton
Executive Director

ⁱ "Women in the Workplace," McKinsey and Company (2021), Rachel Lewis et al, pg. 7