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4/23/2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1469 – *An Act to Clarify the Quality Rating System for Child Care Services in Maine*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in support of LD 1469, *An Act to Clarify the Quality Rating System for Child Care Services in Maine*.

LD 1469 proposes modification of the requirements for Maine's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to specify that any child care provider who meets national accreditation standards must receive the highest rating within the QRIS (known as Star 5).

OCFS is in support of deferring to the accreditation process of the national organizations and entities listed in this bill by providing the highest QRIS rating to providers that are accredited by one of these bodies. Currently, Head Start programs which meet national program standards and other child care programs that are nationally accredited are placed at a Star 5 rating only if they also meet the Maine standards for Star 3 and Star 4.

Prior to the recent update to QRIS, a child care provider that received national accreditation would receive the highest possible rating, but in the transition to the Rising Stars for ME program there were additional requirements for providers beyond national accreditation in order to reach the highest possible rating. Primarily these requirements center around credential requirements for teachers with the QRIS requiring that 50% of lead teachers reach a Level 5 or above on the Early Childhood Education Workforce Registry. OCFS has heard this feedback and believes that allowing providers to universally meet Star 5 requirements with accreditation is supportive of providers who are striving to meet evidence-based standards.

OCFS supports passage of LD 1469 and would encourage the Committee to vote ought to pass on this bill.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW
Director
Office of Child and Family Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

