



May 14, 2025

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

As the director of a childcare program, I am writing in strong support of **LD 1736: An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts.**

Each week, I hear from parents who are desperate for care, many facing the impossible choice between staying home and losing income, or returning to work. Many of these are families with infants and those living in underserved rural areas. The lack of accessible care is not just a personal crisis, it's a workforce and economic crisis for our entire state.

LD 1736 empowers the Office of Child and Family Services to support providers like us through direct contracts. This shift would allow programs to plan more predictably and reserve slots for the most vulnerable children, particularly infants and toddlers, who require more staffing and resources to care for safely.

The unpredictability of subsidy-based systems makes it extremely difficult to commit to serving high need populations. LD 1736 would offer the financial stability we need to expand responsibly and sustainably, especially in lower-income or rural communities like ours.

I urge the committee to vote "**Ought to Pass**" on LD 1736. It is a vital tool to build capacity and stability in a system that is currently overwhelmed and under-resourced.

Thank you for your leadership and support of Maine's children and families.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stantyr".

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