

David Motel  
Waterville  
LD 2066

Dear distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is David Motel, and I am a single father of a child on the autism spectrum and a dedicated State of Maine employee. Every day, I work hard to support my son, and like many families across our state, I depend on a childcare system that is struggling to meet the needs of working parents, especially those raising children with special needs.

Maine faces a distinct shortage of facilities equipped to support children with autism and other developmental challenges. Families often travel long distances to find appropriate care, and in many parts of the state, reliable public transportation simply does not exist. These barriers make it even harder for parents to maintain steady employment and for children to receive the consistent, specialized support they deserve.

This is why the Child Care Employment Award is so important. By providing subsidies to childcare workers whose own children are in licensed care, the bill strengthens a workforce that is essential yet chronically underpaid. Directing funds to licensed facilities ensures that support goes directly to programs that meet quality standards and encourages providers to invest in training. Training that is critical for caring for children on the autism spectrum and other special needs.

The bill's increased funding and dedicated administrative position give the Department of Health and Human Services the capacity to manage the program effectively and adapt it to real-world challenges. For families like mine, this legislation means the ability to work with peace of mind, knowing our children are safe, supported, and understood. For childcare workers, it means greater stability and the ability to remain in a field that desperately needs them.

The only way to build a childcare system that truly works, for children with special needs, for working parents, and for the providers who hold it all together, is through thoughtful, targeted investments like this. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help create a stronger, more accessible childcare infrastructure for families across Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Motel  
Working Single Father  
Maine State Parent Ambassador