

Testimony in Support of LD 2066

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Health and
Human Services Committee

1/21/2026

My name is Brittany Foss, and I am an Early Childhood Education Supervisor from Plymouth, Maine. I am writing to express support for LD 2066: An Act to Establish the Child Care Employment Award.

I am a child care professional who has been working in this field for fifteen years, and a parent of two young children who are currently in care. Like many in this field, I chose early childhood education because I believe in the importance of the early years, and understand the impact they have on the rest of a child's life into adulthood. Even though I wholeheartedly believe this, the financial realities of working in child care while paying for child care myself have made staying in the field extremely challenging.

Having the support of the Child Care Employment Award has been the reason I am able to continue working in early childhood education. Without this support, the cost of care for my own children would likely outweigh my take-home pay, forcing me to consider leaving the field despite my training, experience, and commitment. This is a reality faced by many dedicated educators — we are caring for other families' children while struggling to afford care for our own.

The other hat that I wear is a supervisor in an early head start program. This bill does not just support educators; it is a workforce retention strategy. Supporting child care staff with paying for their own children's care, helps to keep educators in the field which directly impacts the level of care that children and families are receiving. Without this support, educators are forced out of this field due to the financial strain, causing high turn over rates that force children to lose stable relationships and quality care. I have personally had conversations with staff who state that they are only able to continue their employment due to this support that they have received.

This investment into the child care workforce is a way to strengthen the broader economy. Families cannot work without reliable child care, and child care cannot function without a stable, supported workforce.

I urge you to support this bill and continue prioritizing policies that recognize the value of the child care workforce. Programs like the Child Care Employment Award make it possible for educators like me to remain in the field, support our own families, and continue providing high-quality care for the children and families who depend on us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.