

Amanda Hartman
Maine State Parent Ambassadors Alumni
LD 1414

Testimony in Support of LD 1414: An Act to Support and Sustain Maine's Child Care Workforce

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday 1/21/2026

Dear Distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee,
My name is Amanda Hartman, and I live in Unity, Maine. I am a parent of one beautiful baby girl and a substitute teacher for Waldo Cap Pre-K program and working to become a teacher. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in support of LD 1414: An Act to Support and Sustain Maine's Child Care Workforce
As a parent, I want to work, provide for my family, and know my child is safe and cared for. But today, that's out of reach for too many Maine families. These costs come at the same time families are least able to afford them, right after welcoming a new baby and returning to work.

For parents like me, that means having to delay returning to work, take on debt, or make career sacrifices, not because we want to—but because affordable infant and toddler care simply doesn't exist in many parts of our state.

LD 1414 offers a thoughtful, data-driven solution that recognizes the true cost of quality infant and toddler care and the value of Maine's working parents. By strengthening rates and planning for non-traditional hour care, this bill moves us closer to a childcare system that works—for families, for providers, and for our state's economy.

LD 1414 also supports developing non-traditional hour care, which is critical for parents working evenings, weekends, or early mornings—jobs that are common in health care, hospitality, and manufacturing.

A planning grant program can help providers build capacity for these types of care, making the system more responsive to real family needs while supporting diverse work schedules across our economy.

I respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1414.

Thank you for your time and for your continued leadership on childcare issues.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hartman
Unity, Maine