



**Testimony of J.R. Kenny, Maine Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
In Support of LD 2212 - An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations  
from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and  
Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State  
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027**

**February 18, 2026**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Maine** and the more than 8,500 youth Clubs we serve, I am writing this testimony in support of continued and expanded funding for the **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**. Across our state, families, children, and childcare providers rely on CCAP to maintain access to stable, high-quality care that supports healthy development and strengthens Maine's economy.

As one of Maine's most accessible youth development organizations, Boys & Girls Clubs serve thousands of children and families across the state. Every day, we witness firsthand the pressures working families face in finding and affording reliable, quality childcare and the equally critical challenges facing the dedicated early educators who care for and nurture our youngest learners.

However, many families we serve struggle to afford childcare. According to the Hunt Institute, the annual cost of infant care in Maine can represent **29-39% of a single-income family's budget**, and still **10-13% for two-income households**. The federal standard defines childcare as affordable at **7% of income**, a threshold far out of reach for most Maine families.

**CCAP helps families meet this affordability standard** by capping childcare costs for those earning below 85% of State Median Income, ensuring that parents can access the care they need to work and support their families.

Stable access to high-quality programs, supported by CCAP, helps ensure children develop the cognitive, social, and emotional skills that last a lifetime. At Boys & Girls Clubs, we see how consistent care helps young people thrive academically and socially.

Youth-serving organizations across Maine rely on predictable CCAP payments to operate safely and effectively. This funding enables providers to:

- Retain qualified staff
- Maintain safe and developmentally appropriate environments
- Plan for future capacity and meet rising demand

Without ongoing funding, programs face instability, cannot expand, and may be forced to limit enrollment further, reducing access for working families who need it most.

Affordable childcare is essential to ensuring Maine parents can work, pursue education, and fully participate in the workforce. Today, Maine loses **more than \$400 million each year** due to insufficient childcare capacity through lost wages, productivity challenges, waitlists, and program closures that impact local communities.

By helping families afford childcare, **CCAP supports businesses, local economies, and Maine's broader economic stability.**

Boys & Girls Clubs strongly urge the Legislature to **maintain and expand funding for CCAP**. This investment ensures:

- Families can access affordable, reliable childcare
- Children receive stable, high-quality early learning experiences
- Providers can operate sustainably and serve more families
- Maine's workforce and economy remain strong

Thank you for your commitment to Maine's children and families and for your support of the Child Care Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Maine**

JR Kenny

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