

Nina Earley  
Bangor  
LD 2212

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February 18, 2026

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingweron, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Nina Earley and I am a resident of Bangor. I am writing today to testify neither for nor against LD 2212.

Safe, high-quality child care isn't optional, it's essential. My son is now in public Pre-K, but when we were first looking at daycares we sent inquiries to nearly 10 daycares around Bangor, many of which had long waitlists, and we got very lucky to find a part-time spot at the right time, that then turned into a full-time spot a few months later. We were just able to make it work, with some lucky family support for the days that weren't covered during the initial part-time start, and financially with some very careful budgeting. The monthly cost of full-time daycare was more than our mortgage.

\$15 million in ongoing funding for Maine's Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP) means more young children can access safe, stable, and enriching environments during the most critical years of development. This investment would immediately support more than 1,000 children currently on the waitlist and limit future waitlists that disrupt parent's ability to work, attend school, or pursue job training. CCAP is a proven economic investment: it helps families afford child care while providing stable, predictable payments to child care programs operating on razor-thin margins.

I urge you to support the ongoing funding for CCAP so that Maine becomes a place where people can actually afford to raise families and child care centers can afford to stay open and provide safe care for our children.

Thank you,  
Nina Earley