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I'm asking you to include \$15 million of ongoing investment into the Child Care Affordability Program.

Families in the Greater Bangor Communities are struggling with long waitlists and the rising cost of child care. When parents can't secure or afford reliable care, it affects their ability to work and maintain financial stability. The Bangor Region YMCA Child Development Programs want to serve all families eligible for the Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP), but when funding is uncertain, it becomes challenging to plan staffing, classroom capacity, and long-term operations of the YMCA.

A recent analysis showed that strengthening CCAP could move 90% of our families off the current waitlist and open space for approximately 12-15 families awaiting care, illustrating how deeply this support affects both families and child care programs across the state. [ceimaine.org]

We have seen firsthand how CCAP can stabilize a family's life. One family in our program was facing serious financial strain after unexpected housing costs. Consistent CCAP support allowed their child to stay in a safe, stable learning environment, and the parent was able to continue working. For our program, reliable tuition payments meant we could maintain staffing and keep the classroom open without interruption. Child care is essential for family stability and for the functioning of our local workforce. Predictable support helps both families and programs remain steady.