

Senate and House Representatives

BILL · LD 1799

5/10/2023

Augusta, Maine State House

IN SUPPORT

My name is Kerri Brackett, I am first and foremost a parent but I am also the owner/director of Kerebear Child Care I also am part of the leadership in ECE advocacy and policy group and a trainer for the Maine Roads to Quality. I am testifying in favor of LD1799

LD1799 work around community partnership with public PreK and child care centers and home daycares would make a huge difference for many of the families in my care. A lot of my PreK families apply to get into our 2 classrooms in Buxton The main reason they are looking for this opportunity is because of savings with their tuition It then creates the challenge of finding before and after care as we only have so many slots available for this These children then experience more change which isn't beneficial to children of this age Most centers are already doing the work of the public preK system These teachers have been doing this for many years and the competency-based credential will strongly support that the experience and training that these teachers already have in place From my own personal experience as someone who has been working in this field for over 20 years and has a Masters degree in education. I can say first hand that my experience and time in the field has given me so much more than my education Not to dismiss a strong education but we need to look at things differently and value what people have to offer I speak on behalf of many people who have been my mentors among the years who did not have these degrees as

well as some of my staff who are the most amazing teachers and early childhood professionals I know

Please consider this bill as it can bring some big changes to the youngest members of our community as well as the professionals in my field and the families who are struggling to offer the most developmentally appropriate education for their young children.

Kerr Brackett

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