

**LD 1726**  
**“An Act to Build Maine’s Economy by Supporting Child Care for  
Working Families”**  
**Health & Human Services Committee**  
**Testimony of:**  
**Mary-Gene Rumery**

Good morning, it is an honor to be able to address the committee on such an important issue as Senate President Jackson’s Child Care Bill, LD1726. My name is Mary-Gene Rumery, I am a mother of five from Norridgewock. My children are 10, 6, 5, 3 and 8 months old and are all either adopted or fostered. I tell you that so you will understand that the Department of Health and Human Services does not assist my family with securing and maintaining childcare.

Before adopting my oldest three children I had secure childcare for all of them. Once we switched to pre-adoptive my partner and I were hit with being over income and we were informed we would have to pay full price for both younger children totaling \$426.00 a week. While we live a modest life and my partner and I had good employment, childcare totaling \$1,704 a month was not feasible. My family was forced to make choices such as keeping our boy with a speech disability in his specialized childcare and pulling our daughter out. This also meant I could no longer be employed. My partner was now the sole financial support for our family causing him added stress. I felt like I no longer had direction or purpose in my life as a stay-at-home parent who was an executive assistant. We began to bicker and fight, which was not good for anyone in the family. Fast forward through Covid and the two years after I am only able to work part time as regularly my childcare is not stable due to child to provider ratios being too high. Regularly I bring my youngest two to childcare and there are people we have never met there to cover call offs. My children have anxiety and fear about the unknown and I suffer with anxiety and fear of the unknown. My family is financially impacted by me not being able to go back into a full-time executive position. My partner’s health has been impacted by being under increased stress. I am painfully aware that we are one of the lucky families to have childcare after Covid as many childcare facilities closed during and after Covid.

I am asking you to support LD1726 today because every family in Maine deserves access to quality childcare. If every family were able to access the quality child care they need, regardless of where they live in Maine, we could increase workforce participation across Maine and have the potential for true economic growth. We could make Maine stronger, more appealing and establish a promising future for Maine Families. I urge you to put the families, the children, and the future of Maine’s economic growth first today.