

LD 1726
**“An Act to Build Maine’s Economy by Supporting Child Care for
Working Families”**

Health & Human Services Committee

Testimony of:

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Raychel Ward I am a Maine State Parent Ambassador I am from Livermore Falls and I'm here today testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine’s Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families

I testified in favor of making changes to Maine's dependent tax credit last week. We all know parents cannot survive on tax credits and state benefits alone nor would we want them too Our fine state of Maine has been a daycare dessert for as long as I can remember. As a parent to two special needs girls I needed to step out of the workforce I was priced out due to the cost of child care and the poor child care quality standards we ascribe to Passing LD 1726 would pass on a morale boost to childcare workers being paid a livable wage and that morale will be evidenced by better quality childcare and a slow down in attrition in day care settings

Thank you for your time and consideration I am available for questions