

Testimony of April Tardiff
In support of
LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is April Tardiff and I am a Mother of a 17month old, a wife, a Maine Parent Ambassador, and a former Childcare worker. I'm testifying in support of LD 1726 An Act to Build Maine's Economy by Supporting Child Care and Working Families

I became a mother in Dec 2021 and was forced to resign from my high paying corporate job because full time childcare was hard to find After being forced from my full-time position, I decided to help the childcare workforce by becoming a childcare worker I felt so excited that this new position was going to educate me more on all the developmental milestones and education for my child to grow To become a "teacher in a daycare" I had to take a \$8 pay cut and then also pay for my child to still come with me Within a few weeks I would find out that this new exciting job was not in the best interest for my family I felt severely under paid, I was putting in little over 40hr weeks and I would come home with less than \$75 dollars after paying for my son to be there

I was under trained, they moved me into my own class of 7 one-year olds all by myself 2 days into working Coming from a warehouse supervisor position There was never enough staff to get our whole lunch break most days they would cut it the 30mins in half I felt no support from senior staff, and everyone that had been there for anytime explained how most days are just survival Needless to say that after 4weeks of employment I left the daycare. I was to stressed and the \$75 a week just seemed senseless to remain there any longer I know that I would still be working with children had I been compensated correctly and felt more support from supervisors

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