

Testimony of Teresa Goodrich, family child care owner, Bangor

3/14/2025

In opposition to LD 202: An Act to Increase the Number of Children a Family Child Care Provider May Care for Without Having to Be Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services

I think attention needs to be given to all providers in the state, but with the rising need for providers this bill does allow for more Maine families to find care and I can understand why one wouldn't want to be licensed. We have been hearing lots of concerns recently by providers and owners on maintaining, keeping up with rule changes and regulations and the rising costs to operate said services.

We are seeing funding cut to early childcare which isn't only frustrating but diminishing. Families struggle enough to pay for care and without this funding we are forced to increase rates and in cases force families out or put them in difficult situations. Insurance costs are increasing at astronomical rates as carriers are becoming limited with many now refusing to cover daycares at all, home or center based.

This being said, with the world the way it is today, I would be hard pressed to care for kiddos unlicensed. An unlicensed provider would not be able to get liability insurance, and although the process to obtain coverage and the costs are high, I couldn't imagine not having that security. All over the country we are seeing and hearing of incidents involving children and providers. States should be able to hold all providers accountable but they can't if they allow them to be unlicensed.