

Good morning, Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Charlotte Jacobs and I reside in the town of Scarborough. I work in the town of Gorham, serving families and children throughout Southern Maine as a child care provider, at Seedlings to Sunflowers Non Profit Child Care and Family Center. I stand before you today to testify in full support of LD 1089 and LD 1047. The time is now, to stop ignoring the data around how taxing the most wealthy Mainers can support funding for our communities and schools that would be life changing for most towns or districts. Other states have successfully carried out a tax code like the ones we discuss today.

We have to invest in the future of this state and our nation, and that starts with ensuring our schools, childcare facilities, Head Start and communities are adequately funded. LD 1089 would provide funding for public pre-K through 12th grade education. Universal Pre-K in Maine has been the goal for too long, and we have the means to do it with this proposed bill. Which means we have to stop giving breaks to millionaires and billionaires. Investing in the future of education, children and families will ultimately save our state economy money in the long run. We have to stop ignoring that explicit data around investing in education and the positive outcomes. As a Program Director I have to choose between making sure we make payroll and purchasing essential supplies we need for our school because Maine keeps choosing millionaires over children. Our program has to work tirelessly to pull together fundraisers to support our program in places because Maine keeps choosing millionaires over children. If we aren't having to raise tuition for parents to support our program, we are tapping into the community to fundraise. As providers we deserve more, the children of Maine deserve more.

“Investing in high-quality child care and early learning programs can generate up to \$7.30 per every dollar invested, and the availability of early childhood education programs attracts homebuyers and increases property values by \$13 for every dollar invested in programs.”

(Mar 6, 2024 First Five Year Fund)

The injustice around continued tax breaks for wealthy individuals demonstrates the different values placed on the families and individuals with different socioeconomic situations. This is not only shortsighted, but inhumane. Maine has a long standing history of providing fairness to its citizens, and we need to continue the tradition in Maine of caring for our neighbors. It is extremely disheartening to know that teachers (like myself) and nurses pay the same tax rate on their hard-earned income that the wealthy pay on their unearned income.

Mainers of all socioeconomic classes deserve a democratic approach at providing a fair, equitable and efficient tax code. As you all serve the State of Maine it is your duty and responsibility to ensure that prosperity is obtainable for ALL, not just the top earners.

Source:

<https://www.ffyf.org/2024/03/06/fact-sheet-child-care-and-the-economy/#:~:text=Investing%20in%20high%2Dquality%20child,every%20dollar%20invested%20in%20programs.>

Again, I am urging you to pass the proposed bills LD 1089 and LD 1047, as it is extremely unjust for a person making \$60,000 per year to be taxed at the same rate as those making \$1,000,000 per year. This is simple. As an ECE professional in the field for 14 years, I do not make \$60,000 per year in the work I do. Please, support individuals like myself, among the many other Mainers who would benefit greatly, by passing these bills.

Thank you for your time.

Source:

<https://www.ffyf.org/2024/03/06/fact-sheet-child-care-and-the-economy/#:~:text=Investing%20in%20high%2Dquality%20child.every%20dollar%20invested%20in%20programs.>