

**Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee.**

My name is April Tardiff, and I live in Old Orchard Beach. I am here today, April 4, 2025, to testify in strong support of LD 1060.

As a parent, one of my biggest challenges has been finding a supportive environment where my 3-year-old son can thrive. My son was asked not to return to two different childcare centers. This was a devastating experience for my family—leaving us feeling lost, like I was a bad parent, and worst of all, making my son feel like he was a bad child. We needed support. We needed resources. This is why it's so critical to normalize the challenges toddlers face in childcare settings. My family is not alone in this experience—many parents have children who struggle to fit into traditional childcare models. We need to ensure that families have access to developmental services and inclusive childcare options. High-energy toddlers are not a problem—they need understanding, support, and access to centers that meet their needs so they, and their families, can thrive.

Asking for help is difficult, especially when you don't know where to turn. That's why *Be There For Me* has been a saving grace. It provides an easy, quick, and reliable place for parents to find the help they need. Everything about *Be There For Me* is designed thoughtfully—from its messaging, which tells real stories of Maine families, to its simple and visually accessible website that connects parents directly to the right resources. Parents don't have time to sit on hold or navigate complicated systems—we need clarity, ease, and options at our fingertips. *Be There For Me* delivers exactly that.

As a Parent Ambassador, I've had the privilege of contributing to this campaign. I've seen firsthand the dedication of those who built it, ensuring families across Maine can access support without barriers. This is exactly the kind of resource we must continue to invest in.

I urge you to support LD 1060 so this vital work can continue—so more families can find the help they need, and more organizations can share their resources with those who need them most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.