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Falmouth, Maine
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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services members, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today. My name is Laura Putnam, I grew up in and am now raising my own family in Falmouth. I am here in support of LD 1421, An Act to Clarify Parental Notifications Regarding Child Care Facility Investigations.

I, like many Maine families with 2 working parents, have sent my children to daycare. This is not a decision my husband and I took lightly, but it was the best thing for our family, as well as the best thing for our children. They have developed the basic social skills and compassion for their peers that I hope will serve them well as they navigate their school years and beyond.

Entrusting the care of your infants, toddlers, and children to anyone other than yourself is not an easy task- no one does things quite like mommy.

Unfortunately, my trust was severely destroyed in a daycare owner who, without parent's knowledge or permission, gave melatonin gummies to our children, in the middle of the day. My older son told me that my youngest son was given a nap gummy, everyday. He was just 1 year old when he started attending this daycare. He was 2 and a half when this came to light.

If it were not for an employee who reported this wrong doing, his wife contacting me through Facebook messenger and my subsequent communication through a shared daycare family email list to other enrolled families, it is very possible that none of the families would have ever realized this violation of our trust. I personally filed an official complaint with DHHS on August 30th, 2024. Through the current system of due process, there have been months of investigations and months of appeals which are still ongoing to this day. And yet, as of today, April 8th, 2025, there is still no information regarding this transgression available on the Maine child care choices website, the place us parents are all directed to, to search when vetting potential daycares and pre-schools.

Transparency, accountability, and communication are the only way the relationship between a daycare, a family, and the state license holder are successful.

The bill we are proposing is a step towards this direction. There can never be enough checks and balances in place when we are considering the health, safety, and wellbeing of our children. Thank you the letting my share my story with the committee today. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1421. It takes a village.