

Henry L. Ingwersen Senator, District 32

## THE MAINE SENATE 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen introducing

## LD 1728, "An Act to Establish the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Advisory Board"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

May 15, 2025

Chair Meyer and my colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Senator Henry Ingwersen, representing Senate District 32, including the City of Biddeford and the Towns of Arundel, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman. It is my honor to present <u>LD</u> <u>1728</u>, "An Act to Establish the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Advisory Board."

This bill proposes to establish the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Advisory Board at the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a long-term plan and to develop a financially sustainable solution for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program. In collaboration with other stakeholders, the best parts of this bill have been replicated in other legislation I've cosponsored. LD 1955 sponsored by President Daughtry establishes a program for apprenticeships for child care providers, expands opportunities at career and technical education centers and also directs HHS to develop the plans that LD 1728 seeks to accomplish. It is for this reason I believe this bill should be voted Ought Not To Pass.

I urge the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1728 and to direct its support to LD 1955. Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Henry Ingwersen

State Senator, District 32

Representing Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman