



Henry L. Ingwersen  
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Co-sponsor testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen supporting*  
**LD 1955, "An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability"**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

May 15, 2025

Chair Meyer and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, as you know, 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 **LD 1955**, "*An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability*."

The child care industry is the glue that holds our communities and economy together. Without it, parents would be unable to go to work, kids wouldn't get a necessary head start on their education and dedicated, compassionate providers across the state would be out of the jobs they love. A thriving and sustainable child care infrastructure is the backbone of a successful workforce and a healthy economy in Maine.

We've known for a long time that our child care system is in crisis, and now it is time for us as legislators to take a decisive step toward turning things around. This is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor on and testify in favor of LD 1955. This is a practical piece of legislation that will support the child care industry in three key ways.

First, it would support the critical child care workforce. The bill does so through salary supplements for child care professionals and support programs to help new child care workers entering the industry.

Second, it would support the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Child Care Award, making child care more affordable for more Mainers.

Finally, this bill would provide a much needed one-time infusion of funds to clear the existing 600+ child waitlist for the Childcare Affordability Program, a proven model of success in our state.

While we recognize the tight budget situation we are in and sympathize with the difficult decisions the Department has had to make in their budget recommendations, going backwards on child care is just not the right move for Mainers. It is an industry too crucial to the entirety of our state, and its workers are truly the workforce behind the workforce.

*Chair, Health and Human Services Committee \* Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee*  
*State House: (207) 287-1515 \* Fax: (207) 287-1585 \* Toll Free: 1-800-423-6900 \* TTY: 711*  
*Henry.Ingwersen@legislature.maine.gov \* legislature.maine.gov/senate*

*Proudly representing Senate District 32: Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, Lyman*



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For these reasons, I urge you to support LD 1955 and get the child care industry the support it needs to uplift the entire Maine economy. Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Ingwersen", written over a horizontal line.

**Henry Ingwersen**  
State Senator, District 32  
*Representing Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, and Lyman*

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