

Shilo Goodhue
Resident
LD 255

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I feel blessed to be an early intervention provider here in Maine. Every day I make a difference to families with children birth-3 with disabilities. While I do not currently work for CDS, I am a former CDS employee in part C for 8 year and part B for 10. I currently provide early intervention as a contracted provider.

I understand that there are some important decisions on the horizon. The system providing early supports and services for our youngest and most vulnerable people is under scrutiny as the proposed changes in LD 255 are discussed and decided upon. I hope that the systemic issues in part B special education do not negatively impact the future of part C.

As a part C early intervention provider, I am often explaining to people from all walks of life the differences in what services are in part C from part B special education for preschoolers. The federal regulations are very different for these two provisions. It is essential that the advisory committee and those involved in making decisions that will impact children and families as well as the talented and dedicated professionals in the field can differentiate the great work that is being done in early intervention from the struggles happening in part B.

Thank you for your time,

Shilo Goodhue, M.Ed, CAS