

Mikaela Nadeau
New Gloucester

To the Committee,

I am opposed to the idea of public funded prekindergarten programs that are listed in response to the Covid pandemic.

First of all many PreK programs and daycares had no choice but to suspend the amount of children in their care, or altogether shut down during the pandemic. Thus no amount of public funding would have alleviated the ability to have parents children enrolled in in person environments.

Secondly, Maine currently provides free prekindergarten curriculum through the department of education that people can access if they choose to utilise such curriculum.

Thirdly, there are readily available free resources out there with simple google searches that allow parents the capacity to teach the basic skills needed for kids to go into a public education.

I feel that while many find prekindergarten important, it is far more important to be at home with parents to teach those basic skills and to enjoy the world of play learning before going to kindergarten. Lastly to those who may say it's hard for parents to be at home when they have to work, that is the joy of parenting, to make adult decisions and sacrifices to be there for your child. Even if it means staying home for the first five years, changing your schedules, and sacrificing some things to educate, love, and foster great relationships with your children during the formative years.

Please vote ought not to pass.

Thank you.