

Kathleen Santamore
Saco
LD 1632

Dear Legislators:

I am writing as the concerned Grandparent of a deaf granddaughter. Emma has attended Mackworth Island Preschool for two years and has benefitted from the teaching and socialization there. We are big proponents of this bill to support all of those with hearing needs in the state of Maine.

We respectfully ask that you support this bill to allow services to continue, so lives may be made a bit easier and remain enriched for the hearing impaired. Specifically, allowing social emotional programming, statewide programs for the deaf and hard of hearing, preschool programs at Mackworth, specialty providers for deaf and hard of hearing children supporting the child's language and communication. Ensuring a partnership with local school districts and MECDHH allows children like our Emma to have their needs met. MECDHH providers are crucial as formal members of the IFSP or IEP TEAM.

We have very much appreciated and respected the current services Emma has received and hope that you consider the new proposals set forth in this bill.

Thank you,
Kathleen and Cliff Santamore
Saco