Amy Coleman Bangor LD 948

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill that allows other children to attend a preschool program or medical-based preschool program paid for by the Department of Education. As a parent of a preschool-aged child, I have seen firsthand the tremendous benefits that preschool programs provide, both academically and socially.

My child has attended a high-quality preschool program for the past 2 years, and the progress she has made is truly remarkable. She has developed a love of learning, and her social skills have improved dramatically. She has learned to share, take turns, and work collaboratively with others - skills that will serve her well throughout her life.

Unfortunately, not all families have the same opportunities as mine. Many families cannot afford to send their children to preschool, and as a result, their children start kindergarten at a disadvantage. This is particularly true for families with medical needs, as the cost of medical-based preschool programs can be prohibitive.

By providing department of education funding for preschool programs, we can ensure that all children have access to high-quality early education. This is not only the right thing to do from a social justice perspective, but it is also a smart investment in our future. Studies have shown that children who attend high-quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and earn higher salaries as adults.

I urge you to support this bill, which will help to level the playing field for all children and give them the opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Amy Coleman