

Testimony of Emily McLeod

In support of

LD 1799 An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Emily McLeod. I am a teacher, and I live in Windham. I'm testifying in support of LD 1799 An Act to Expand Maine's High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities.

I support expanding access to public pre-k that strengthens inclusion of family child care, centers, and Head Starts who wish to participate while supporting the needs of families because early intervention and early learning opportunities are incredibly important for future success and to access resources

I support aligning professional development for educators working across early childhood settings and expanding career pathways for ECE professionals because these individuals work tirelessly and need support, recognition and professional development!

I support the establishment of a group of stakeholders to explore equitable pathways for child care programs to access publicly funded pre-k investments because this would change the lives of so many children and families to have this opportunity!

I support facilitation services that help communities strengthen partnerships among child care programs and public schools in delivering publicly funded pre-K that meet local needs because nothing is more important than educating and caring for children in high quality developmentally appropriate settings

I support establishing a Commission to study aligning governance and blending and braiding funding in early care and early childhood education systems because they are so desperate for support funding and resources

Please support LD 1799,
Emily McLeod