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Maine Head Start Directors' Association Supports LD 98 An Act To Clarify Maine's Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers

February 25, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, ladies and gentlemen of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Megan Hannan, Executive Director of Maine Community Action Partnership and the advocacy lead for the Maine Head Start Directors Association, and we support LD 98 An Act To Clarify Maine's Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers.

This bill is a technical fix and one that would not usually require a lot of outside voices, so I come to you today simply to add our support and to thank the Department and you for keeping the need for quality childcare at the forefront. We have a childcare crisis right now, as I am sure you know and will hear more about with future bills. We cannot let that mean that the quality of our care for our most vulnerable Mainers is allowed to deteriorate.

Allowing the Department to assure consistent quality across the state will help to reduce disparities in what, how and when children are learning. The actual curriculum may be different, but challenging, functional learning is important to young brains and assures children are school ready and do better throughout their academic careers.

Within the Community Action system, we go further and work with parents and families, using a Whole Family approach, to assure our families have access to all they need and they are poised for success in many areas.

I am happy to answer any questions that I can, now or in the work session.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Megan Hannan](#)
Executive Director