

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Child and Family Services  
11 State House Station  
2 Anthony Avenue  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 624-5553

**Testimony of  
Todd A. Landry, Ed.D., Director  
Office of Child and Family Services  
Department of Health and Human Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

**LD 98 – An Act to Clarify Maine’s Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers**

**Hearing Date: February 25, 2021**

Good Afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am Todd Landry, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) within the Department of Health and Human Services and I am here today to testify in support of LD 98, An Act to Clarify Maine’s Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers. This bill modifies the statutory provisions regarding family child care providers to ensure alignment between requirements and regulatory authority for center-based child care facilities and family child care providers. Changes include allowing the Department to regulate the administration of medication family child care provider settings, regulate the quality of family child care providers, and levy civil penalties for family child care providers who violate statute or licensing rules. This bill also removes references to “certification” of family child care providers and replaced it with the term licensure.

This bill will provide OCFS with the ability to ensure consistency between provider types in regulating health and safety requirements and provider quality. In 2020 OCFS undertook significant work to review and update the licensing rules for all child care provider types to ensure compliance with federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requirements. The statute as currently written does not allow OCFS to implement certain regulations which are needed to ensure equity across provider types and compliance with CCDBG. Passage of this bill will update the law to allow OCFS to enact important regulations to ensure the health and safety of children attending family child care providers, as well as allowing OCFS to oversee program quality among these providers, giving parents the ability to compare quality among all provider types.

I urge you to support LD 98. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have.