



Maine Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony of Heather Marden

In support of

L.D. 98 “An Act to Clarify Maine’s Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers”

February 25th, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Heather Marden. I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children (MaineAEYC) and I’m also an early childhood educator in a child care program. I am testifying in support of L.D. 98 “An Act to Clarify Maine’s Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers.”

This bill makes various changes to the laws governing the licensure of child care providers in order to ensure consistency in language and clear definitions between provider types. We appreciate the Department’s work to align rules and regulations governing child care and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

Included in these changes is the ability of the Department to regulate the quality of the child care program. With research showing us that early learning experiences are strong predictors of future outcomes, we know that placing an emphasis on quality in early childhood education programs strengthens the development of the children they serve.

Quality early learning settings support whole child development, can better assess early intervention needs, and provide families with information and resources about the early learning and development of their child. These settings also provide nurturing educator-child relationships upon which children build trust and a sense of security necessary for social and emotional health.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

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