



Family Child Care  
Association of Maine

Chrissie Davis, Public Policy Committee Chair  
fccam.publicpolicy@gmail.com

**Testimony of Chrissie Davis, On Behalf of the Family Child Care  
Association of Maine Before the Health and Human Services Committee,  
in support of LD 1263 “An Act To Create a Separate Department of Child  
and Family Services”**

**May 11, 2021**

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Chrissie Davis and I am writing on behalf of the Family Child Care Association of Maine (FCCAM).

FCCAM serves and acts on the behalf of the needs, rights, and well-being of all of Maine’s young children and their families in family child care, believing that all children should have equal opportunity for healthy growth and development.

As family child care providers working in support of families and children, we are aware that Maine’s systems for children are fragmented. FCCAM supports the creation of an integrated system, under its own department, to support children and their families and the child care workforce. Although not all programs that support children and families appear to be included in LD 1263, we see it as the beginning of the process needed to build that better system of support for children and families.

Family Child Care providers have been directly impacted by all changes to programming that supports children, families and Maine’s child care system. With the increase of programs for supporting the welfare of children and families, we feel there is a need for the Department’s capacity to expand with it. The Office of Child and Family Services is large and complex enough that it now needs to be an independent agency, separate from DHHS. Governor Mill’s Economic Recovery Committee highlights in their report that Maine’s child care system needs comprehensive reform to sustain Maine’s people.

Appreciating the important work of DHHS and OCFS and understanding the growing workload, FCCAM sees a need for administrative oversight and capacity building. LD 1263 would begin that process with the formation of a separate Department of OCFS. We ask for your support of LD 1263 to strengthen Maine’s programming and resources for children, families, and the child care workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chrissie Davis  
Chair FCCAM Public Policy Committee  
[fccam.publicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fccam.publicpolicy@gmail.com)