

Child care

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts , and honorable members of the committee on INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS: my name is Araksan Egueh, I am a resident of Lewiston and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1652

Finding affordable child care for your children is one of the most expensive things these days. On one hand, sending your children to before or aftercare is an important act that will allow us to keep going to work and get paid. On the other hand, paying for child care is out of control and it is very expensive. So a lot of families including myself struggle between housing, child care, or even putting enough food on the table. The low wage pay does not cover our basic bills.

I personally struggle, and I know many of my friends that have more than one job to keep up with child care and housing payment. I'm a single parent who also takes classes with the CMCC and works full time and it is not easy to pay for child care. Even two-parents households also face the same difficulties with childcare.

In my case, I'm dealing with the child care of my only son, and I'm having a hard time. I can't imagine how with more than one child it's possible to afford to put food on the table. My work with the Djibouti community in Lewiston/Auburn also has exposed me to the struggle parents have to find affordable child care facilities in order to go to work.

Our children deserve to have a good place to spend their time at. As we know that the best child care system is where they also have an Early Childhood program (head start program) because they have a learning and child developmental assessment programs.

They also can pave the way for our children to think and be prepared for school in the future. I saw that result in my child's development, well-being, gaining rich vocabulary, and socializing when he used to go to Promise Early Education Center.

Please help us to pass this bill **LD 1652** . It's so important for parents and children who are the future of our state and country.
With affordable child care, parents can go to work and at the same time it will create more jobs for our economy to grow.