

Betsy Myers  
Brunswick

Testimony of Betsy Hedges Myers  
Before the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business Committee, in  
support of  
LD 1652: An Act To Build a Child Care System by Recruiting and Retaining Maine's Early  
Childhood Educators Workforce  
May 11th, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, my  
name is Betsy Myers I am a resident of Scarborough and I am here today to testify in  
favor of LD 1652.

The consideration of LD 1652: An Act To Build a Child Care System by Recruiting  
and Retaining Maine's Early Childhood Educators Workforce will allow early  
childhood educators to be compensated, supported, and valued in a state where they  
earn a median wage of \$26,811 annually.

Due to the pandemic this year, I have been thanked by so many families for the work  
I do in providing quality care to their children. Parents tell me "I don't know what I  
would do without you." Though I feel appreciated by the families I work with, I do  
not think my work is valued by the state of Maine given the fight for resources, pay,  
and overall support and funding. I am pleased to be moving into the assistant director  
position at the Bowdoin College Children's Center after working as a teacher for  
many years. With this new role in administration, I will do all that I can to support the  
teachers who work so hard to care for the children in our community. This bill is so  
important to maintain quality educators who deserve a livable and respectful wage for  
the incredible hard work and service they provide.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this testimony and considering this  
impactful bill.

Warmly,  
Betsy Myers

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