

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyers , and honorable members of the [committee on INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS](#): my name is Dr. Martha Naber. I am a resident of Westbrook, ME, and I am submitting testimony in favor of LD 1652 [An Act To Build a Child Care System by Recruiting and Retaining Maine's Early Childhood Educators Workforce](#) .

*I am retired after a lifetime of employment in all aspects of early childhood education. I have nurtured (and taught) all ages from infants at a high school program for parenting teens, through adults desiring to enter new work at Kennebec Valley Community College. I saw the passion and excitement of many who were starting a new family child care business, many wanting to be able to care for their own children and provide care for other families at the same time.*

*I had the luxury to work in this field because my husband was a faculty in the university system and could support our family and could provide health care coverage for us as well. Many other employees in early childhood education do not have this financial support. I know child care employees/parents who loved working in a child care setting, but did not make enough money to stay in the field. I had students who left KVCC (or changed their majors) before graduation when they learned they could not afford to work in early care and education and support their families.*

*Maine needs dedicated, educated early childhood educators who can afford to stay in the field, who understand child development, brain development, and the best methods of teaching young children. And be the loving nurturing adults children need to enhance their development. LD 1652 will support these goals.*

*I hope Maine can build a child care support system that we believe is part of Maine's infrastructure. People need roads to drive on to get to work. Many families need child care to be able to work outside their homes. This is a responsibility of all Maine people, not only those with families with children. I urge you to pass LD 1652. Thank you.*