

Leslee Pierce  
Saco

I have worked in the Early Care and Education Field for 35+ years and I support LD 1652. Our Early Care and Education system is crumbling around us. I have watched many talented teachers leave the field because they cannot afford to live on the wages our field pays. The field is currently experiencing significant difficulty hiring qualified candidates who are willing to do this very important work for low wages. Many early education teachers have the same education as K-12 teachers, but are paid far less. The families of the children, in these early care and education programs, cannot afford to pay any more than they already do. We need to value the educators who support the healthy development of the children in their care, by supporting training and education, and we need to make sure they are paid worthy wages for the important, skilled work they do. Investing in early childhood educators is investing in Maine's children. Please support LD 1652