

Testimony of Kaitie Gilmour
In support of
LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers
sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Kaitie Gilmour. I am an Owner/Director, and I live in Houlton. I'm testifying in support of LD 2199: An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers.

I lose an incredible amount of income due to CCAP not reimbursing based on enrollment as well as CCAP paying only market rate and not my actual rate. This can account for approximately \$85,000 a year. We are a small family business licensed for 49 (plus 12 at another location) that \$85,000 could make an incredible difference in our lives and ability to keep accepting an unlimited number of children on CCAP.

It's truly a passion of mine to accept as many children as possible regardless of who is paying for their childcare. I want children who are subsidy eligible to receive the same amazing care as children whose families can privately pay for their care. We offer an amazing opportunity for education rich child care that we feel is beneficial to any child regardless of income. Unfortunately many programs choose to limit how many children they accept that utilize subsidy programs because of the decrease in pay. In order to continue on this path we need stable funding for child care programs.

I opened our child care center in September of 2024 and since then I've known personally of 2 large and 2 small daycares closing. After being open for a few months I can see why they had to close. We're a few months in and on the brink of that fate ourselves. This is not only damaging to the communities that it's affecting but it's a waste of the funds that have been paid out in infrastructure grants. That being said emergency financial help could not only provide some relief of the stress of these realities but also ensure that in the case of a major emergency my fate isn't sealed.

Please vote in support of LD 2199.