



6-16-25

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Maine State Legislature

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

On behalf of CEI and the undersigned stakeholders, I am writing to express our strong support for **LD 1955 – An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability**. We urge you to fund this critical legislation, which was passed unanimously by the Health and Human Services Committee and the full Legislature and now awaits your decision on the Special Appropriations Table.

LD 1955 addresses urgent and long-standing needs in Maine’s child care system by:

- **Expanding the Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP)**, allowing more families—particularly those in rural and economically disadvantaged areas—to access affordable child care.
- **Reducing the CCAP waitlist by 90%**, enabling more than 550 Maine parents to rejoin the workforce and creating space for approximately 630 children awaiting care.
- **Supporting a tiered compensation system** that stabilizes and strengthens the early childhood education workforce through fair, sustainable wages and career advancement pathways.

Our organization recognizes that access to affordable child care is essential for Maine’s workforce, economy, and families. The investments in LD 1955 not only support working parents but also sustain small child care businesses, many of which are struggling to remain viable amid workforce shortages and rising operational costs.

This is a bipartisan bill with a clear return on investment: supporting Maine families, bolstering economic participation, and ensuring young children receive the care and early learning experiences they need to thrive.

We respectfully urge the Committee to fund LD 1955. Your support is vital to strengthening Maine’s economy and child care infrastructure now and for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[insert signatories]