



Good afternoon, Chairman Weyler and members of the House Finance Committee.

My name is Megan Brabec, and I am here with Save the Children Action Network on behalf of child care providers and advocates across New Hampshire to express strong opposition to **House Bill 1515**.

You're already familiar with this program – it has had bipartisan support from this legislature in the past. Recruitment and retention grants have helped child care employers offer modest bonuses and benefits that keep experienced educators in the classroom. Without this support, programs are forced to reduce enrollment or close classrooms entirely — not because families don't need care, but because staff cannot afford to stay in the profession.

I urge you to preserve this **proven, bipartisan investment** that was included in the current budget and has delivered real results. The bill's structure reflects fiscal restraint: the Legislature first pursued federal funds, and only now — after that option was exhausted — does it step in to protect the system from destabilization.

This is also what voters want. Recent polling shows that more than **80 percent of New Hampshire voters**, including majorities of Republicans and independents, support state funding to recruit and retain child care and preschool teachers. Voters understand that child care is essential to a functioning workforce and a strong economy.

The Child Care Workforce Fund provides certainty, stability, and continuity for families and employers across the state. I respectfully urge the committee to support it and **vote ITL on HB1515**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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