

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Part of our mission is to advocate on behalf of your children, whom we serve, to ensure the State protects the critical services they need. A new rule proposed by MaineCare, titled Section 106, threatens to reduce those services and we need your help to prevent it from being approved.

Section 106 would combine all school-based services for children with special needs. As proposed, the rule could cut your child's services in half. The rule would also limit services to a school year calendar, meaning your child would only be eligible to receive services during the school year, as opposed to the full year of eligibility they currently receive.

Therapeutic preschool providers and advocacy organizations across the state recognize how detrimental these changes would be for children and families. But your voice will make a difference and it's easy to be heard. Here's how:

1. Sign our petition opposing Section 106. With your signature we can compel the legislature to review this rule. Just go to [tinyurl.com/rule106](http://tinyurl.com/rule106) and add your name, address, and phone number where indicated.
2. Submit your concerns to Trista Collins at Maine DHHS by 11:59 PM on Friday, February 28, 2020.  
**Email:** [Trista.Collins@maine.gov](mailto:Trista.Collins@maine.gov)  
**Mail:** Trista Collins, 109 Capitol Street, 11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
**Phone:** 207-624-4094
3. Attend the DHHS public hearing on Section 106 to be held Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the Augusta Civic Center – 76 Community Drive, Augusta.
4. Contact your state legislator(s) to help them understand the impact this will have on your child and your family. To find your Senator or Representative, look here:  
**Senator:** <https://legislature.maine.gov/senate/home-page/find-your-state-senator>  
**Representative:** <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ListAlphaTown>.

When submitting comments or contacting your legislator, it is important to explain how a reduction in services would impact your child and your family. Consider the following:

- How has your child benefited since receiving preschool services? What does that mean for their long-term outcomes?
- Prior to receiving services, what was your experience like with typical daycare settings?
- What would life look like for you and your child if these services were significantly reduced?

In addition to making our voices heard, be assured that we are pursuing all other options at our disposal. We will continue to keep you updated on our efforts and appreciate any advocacy you can provide.

Sincerely,