



Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education committee,

Children's early experiences significantly shape their subsequent academic success, intellectual growth, and self esteem. Research on early childhood development has revealed that 75 percent of brain growth occurs before the age of 6 and that without sufficient mental stimulation, children may fail to develop the synapses that facilitate learning throughout their lives. Yet, all too often, parents lack access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education programs.

Children who receive highquality early education are less likely to be held back a grade, less likely to need special education, more likely to graduate high school, less likely to be involved in crimeand delinquency, and more likely to earn more as adults. Early childhood education can be especially beneficial for lowincome children-those children most at risk for school failure and least likely to have access to highquality programs.

CT PTA supports effective early education development programs that are adequately funded and developmentally appropriate, and that coordinate comprehensive services for young children and their families. In addition, CT PTA believes that early childhood programs should include strong family involvement components.

CT PTA supports the preschool subsidy program outlined in HB 7345 and encourages its passage.

Thank you,

Marne Usher
VP of Legislation CT PTA

Non-Speaking
Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
Marne Usher

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