

2006 Legislative Session – Wednesday, February 28

Senate Bill N. 1114 – An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations
Regarding Education

This letter is written in support of Sections 12 – 14, 16 and 17 of the Governor’s Early Childhood Initiative.

This is very important for the future of our state. We must start to address education problems in the student’s early years. Governor Rell’s budget starts this process finally.

This establishes a scholarship program for students in early childhood education and a program for loan forgiveness to Connecticut state residents for early childhood education who remain working in early childhood education field for three years.

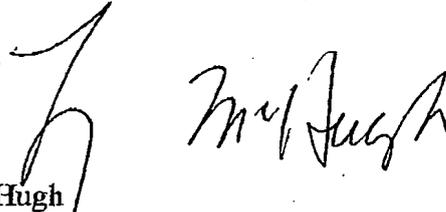
It also expands the Connecticut minority teach incentive program administered by the Department of Higher Education to add early childhood education. Minority students in early childhood program in their junior and/or senior year would receive a maximum grant of \$5,000 per year for up to two years and those students would be eligible for loan reimbursement up to a maximum of \$2,500 per year for up to 4 years of teaching or work service.

It establishes a Connecticut collaborative of higher education institution program that will work to maximize the potential of institutions of higher education in Connecticut to offer quality early childhood education programs.

It allows families with gross income up to 185% of the federal poverty level to be eligible for the preschool subsidy program established by the Department of Education and increases the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness provider.

I am strongly in support of this initiative.

Sincerely,


Larry McHugh
President, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
Chairman, CSU Board of Trustees

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Awards: Governor’s Laurel Award for Responsible Social Involvement, President’s White House Citation for Private Sector Initiatives
U.S. Department of Labor LIFT America Award, Connecticut Small Business Advocate Award, Vision 2000 Excellence Award
NAACP Business Award