



**Education Committee Public Hearing
Friday, February 29, 2008**

**Testimony by
Amy Watson, Coordinator of the Early Childhood Alternate to Certification
Charter Oak State College**

Raised Bill 5592

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Amy Watson and I am the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Alternate Route to Certification at Charter Oak State College. I am here today to talk about our support for **Raised Bill 5592**.

The Alternate Route to Early Childhood Certification at Charter Oak State College offers experienced professionals an opportunity to earn an Early Childhood teaching certificate and fill vacancies across the state for certified staff. The program is modeled after the pre-existing CT Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) programs, complies with established policies for ARCs in Connecticut, and on January 2 received approval from the joint committee of the State Department of Education and Governor's Board of Higher Education.

A requirement for all ARC graduates in Connecticut is that prior to applying for their initial licensure, they must be hired in a school on a 90-day temporary certificate in a program overseen by a board of education. Current regulations, which predate the introduction of the Early Childhood Alternate Route to Certification, do not include early childhood programs as one of the possible settings in which to obtain the 90-day temporary certificate. In order for this year's cohort of students to complete all requirements leading up to their initial certification and assume positions in certified positions in early childhood programs, this language needs to be incorporated into the CT General Statutes Section 10-145b(c)(1).

The ECE ARC at Charter Oak State College is field intensive and has high entrance requirements including evidence of three years of successful practice in the field. Throughout the course of the program, students demonstrate effective teaching practices through field observations, conducting child assessments, videotaping teaching sessions, a four-week field internship, and a cumulative final portfolio. Additionally, students are observed and formally assessed in the field four times during the program. The 90-day temporary certificate period represents a final period of mentoring and assessment for ARC graduates.

In order to support the development of Alternate Routes to Certification in Early Childhood and be consistent with the state requirements for ARC graduates, existing regulations must be modified.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: *Amy Watson*

Date: *2/29/08* Bill Number: *5592*