



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
February 29, 2008

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: *MARK MCQUILLAN*
COMM. OF
EDUCATION

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

TESTIMONY OF
MARK K. MCQUILLAN, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

ON
RAISED BILL 5592
AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) for Early Childhood Education was created in response to a predicted shortage of certified early childhood teachers in Connecticut and has just gotten underway. The first cohort of participants is scheduled to complete this program by July 2008. However, in order for graduates of this program to work in the preschools, birth-to-three early intervention programs and kindergartens, as they are being trained to do, they must have a temporary 90-day certificate issued by the State Board of Education.

Unfortunately, as the current statute regarding the issuance of these certificates is written, the State Board may issue these certificates only in specified endorsement areas, and early childhood education is not listed. Raised Bill 5592 adds early childhood education to the list of areas in which the State Board may issue such a certificate and will make it possible for early childhood education ARC completers to be employed as certified early childhood educators. We urge your support.