

To Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee:

I am testifying against S.B. 830.

As a CREC Choice parent, I would like for you to know that I have two children, who entered the Choice program in Kindergarten. Their success is because of some caring and loyal staff, who interceded on the behalf of all the parents who enter the Choice program. Please leave the Choice Program at CREC.

We as parent face many challenges. Over the years, however, you can always pick up the phone, and call Ms Nessa Oram or any of her staff, and tell them your concerns or any problems we the parent may face, and I guarantee you that, Ms Nessa will meet with you, sit you down and listen.

THAT IS A GOD GIVEN GIFT SHE HAS, to be a good listener. She will not only listen but will try her best to help, and to help us as parent walk through our problem. She has a natural way of helping in any way she can. And it reflects on the staff she works with. If we the parents are faced with bus issues, school, or personal issues, she and her staff are there to provide much needed help and assistance.

When you walk in the office at anytime, you can be assured that the warm greeting you get will let you know that there are caring people waiting to help you.

Now my concern is that if the State was to take over the CHOICE PROGRAM, who would be there to jump into action right away? Remember, we are talking about our children.

Are we going to reach a machine, saying please leave a message and someone will get back in touch with you soon? Or when I call I would speak to a live person, who will tell me I will take care of it right away, that is what I'm talking about.

The warm greeting, the caring voice, the concerned look Ms Nessa, Ms Kim, Ms Maria and Ms Renita and the many staff that make up the CHOICE PROGRAM.

Who can replace such efficient people like the Choice staff? They treat us like family, and that is what makes the program so successful, it reaches across the community and meets the need of the parents.

So please let CHOICE PROGRAM remain as it is, with all the caring staff to help us in times of need.

If you were to replace the Choice staff things will not be the same for us parents, things like school buses, etc.

We are looking forward to people like the CHOICE PROGRAM STAFF to service us for many more years to come. My children's education depends on the caring staff at Choice.

Thank you for listening.
From A Very Concerned Parent,