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~~9/18/11~~

Human Services Committee  
300 Capitol Ave

As the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children, I represent more than 2,000 members in CT, many of whom are administrators of publicly funded early childhood programs. On behalf of those programs, I cannot stress enough how important this bill is. More and more programs are blending state funding, to remain solvent as they provide full day, quality service to children and families. By doing so, they have reporting obligations to multiple agencies. Duplicative, labor-intensive reports that consume an administrator's time away from classrooms, children and families.

For example, a program that receives both DSS and SDE School Readiness funding will in the course of 12 months complete more than 77 basic administrative reports. Add to that, separate grant applications for both funding streams, entering every child into the state pre-K information system (PKIS) twice per year, entering every staff into the CT Professional Development Registry and ensuring it is continually updated, NAEYC accreditation requirements, assisting every parent in applying for Care 4 Kids program and completing detailed monthly reports for those who receive Care 4 Kids, and all of the requirements of the Department of Public Health. We are talking about hundreds of documents, and hours of time. Many if not all if these reports require a director to among other things, manually count check marks in classroom attendance books – **for every classroom, every day and every child**. Time taken away from an administrators capacity to focus on providing a quality early learning experience for CT's children. Is this really how we want to spend our limited resources?

Connecticut does not have a "system of early care and education." We have funding silos. Moving this bill forward is the first step in rectifying that situation. Now, more than ever, we need to work smarter to channel our limited resources and become more efficient. Passing this bill will ensure that our state works toward a **system** of quality early care for Connecticut's young children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Rainville  
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