



**TORRINGTON
CHILD
CARE
CENTER**

Accredited by NAEYC's
National Academy
of Early Childhood
Programs



Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
December 9, 2009

My name is Mary Cecchinato. I am the Executive Director of the Torrington Child Care Center Inc. I am submitting testimony today to express my grave concern about all of the cuts to children that have been proposed by the Governor. In particular, I would like to address the \$3,970,275 reduction in funding for State Funded Centers found within the proposed line item entitled "Reduce Non-Entitlement Grant Accounts by 25%."

My child care center is a Department of Social Services State Funded Center. We are a NAEYC accredited center which has been accredited since July of 2000. I presently have 46 families who utilize our services. This cut would not only force 46 children from my program, it puts the entire center at risk, including the children who are attending as part of the School Readiness program.

There are indirect impacts to these cuts as well:

- By limiting the amount of affordable early care centers this pre-disposes our public schools to budget increases for more specialized services due to children coming to school unprepared for basic classroom endeavors. This will maximize the already strained budgets of numerous educational institutions which support our communities.
- If the center closes, parents will not be able to work without child care and employees of the center will also be without jobs. This will add to the already exhausted unemployment in the State of Connecticut, which cannot afford the burden of having more people unemployed and needing services. This will add more stress to children and families.

I urge you to reject proposals that will negatively impact children; they are our most important resources. They are the State of Connecticut's future.

Thank you.

Mary Cecchinato
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