

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
December 9, 2009

My name is Edie Reichard. I am the Director of Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc. in Hamden. We are a Department of Social Services (DSS) State Funded Center. All 30 of my child care slots are funded by DSS. During any one year we serve 50 or more families. I am concern about all of the cuts to funding for children (Reduce Non-Entitlement Grant Accounts by 25%) that have been proposed by the Governor.

If these cuts to our funds were to go into effect, we would probably have to close our center. With the closing of our center at this time 30 families would be out of child care and therefore 30 parents would not be able to go to work. If these 30 children do not attend a child care center to prepare them for kindergarten, this will then put even more pressure on the kindergarten teachers to try to get them ready for school.

The closing of my center would also mean my entire staff would need to go on unemployment. At this time unemployment really can not afford to have more people collecting, especially when they could be working at our centers if they were to remain funded and open.

And think about it, this is just in Hamden. This will be happening all over the state to many of the centers in the same situation we are in.

I urge you to reject proposals that will negatively impact children. After all, children are our most important resource. They are Connecticut's future.

Thank you.

Edie Reichard
Director
Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc.
11 Pine Street
Hamden, CT 06514