

Testimony before the Education Committee
Governor's Bill 6359 - An Act Concerning an Early Childhood
System



Testimony by Yoellie Iglesias, Founder

Madre Latina Organization

Friday, February 15, 2013

Good afternoon, Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Governor's Bill 6359, An Act Concerning an Early Childhood System.

I am Yoellie Iglesias, Founder of the Madre Latina Organization, who's intent is to become a non-profit, educational organization. Our mission is to promote and encourage the advancement of Hispanic mothers by providing training, technical assistance and mentoring in order for them to pursue their education.

The Madre Latina Organization is comprised of Hispanic women from diverse backgrounds who are committed to promoting and mentoring other Latin Mothers. This unique network seeks to enhance the capacity of our organization to gain boarder awareness of the distinctive role of Latina mothers in this community and society, as a whole.

The Madre Latina Organization works hand in hand with community partners and private organizations such as the School Readiness Council-Bridge to Success Team and our commendable support of leaders from the Connecticut Parent Power Family.

We, at our Madre Latina Organization, believe that parents are their child's first teachers. They need appropriate information in a timely fashion for them to be able to make the right decisions and understand their rights. As parents from diverse backgrounds, we need to unite and make sure that we understand fully the extension of our decisions when it comes to the well being of your child. As a mother and a leader, I understand how critical is for a parent have access, quality and affordable care for our children at the earliest years of life to get the right start at life! It is not easy for any parent to leave their precious child in the care of a stranger, and finding the correct program is essential and necessary with a consolidated system that really works.

Although our organization continues to educate the Hispanic community on the benefits of early starts for better outcomes in their child's life, our belief system is to keep our children in relative care. An early childhood system that works for all children is critical as the benefits are endless.

We wholeheartedly support HB 6359 to be our first step in ensuring that every young child and parent wins, as they have access to a central location that helps them understand that programs can help our population to improve social and emotional behaviors, improved parent-child relationship, reduce grade repetition and lower drop out rates and increased High school completion rates. We know that brain research has taught us that our children are sponges and can learn extensive and more complex information if introduced in creative and innovative ways. HB 6359 is the right choice for our state to add a value to our bold approach in centralizing a system that is presenting fragmented.

We know that through consolidated processes that are parent and child friendly, we recognize that quality access, affordability and innovative programs will increase our female labor force participation, as they begin trusting that their children are in a place that provides wrap around services that work, while increasing the change to our Mothers to acquire higher education and their own sense of self sufficiency.

Our Madre Latina Organization commends all of the Education Committee team for making this a priority and caring enough about our children and parents, as they work together to acknowledge and put into action the important structure to a consolidated early childhood system that produces positive outcomes for all.

Thank for giving me the opportunity to testify and we look forward to working with you in the near future with the passing of HB 6359.

Madre Latina Organization
PO BOX 3082
Waterbury, CT 06705
203-232-7779
h.net777@yahoo.com