



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 25
An Act Establishing the Office of Early Childhood
March 3, 2014

Dear Senator Andrea Stillman, Representative Andrew Fleischmann, and distinguished members of the Education Committee,

Good morning, my name is Carol Sargent – Director of the School Readiness Program at the Childcare Learning Centers, Inc. in Stamford, CT. The Childcare Learning Centers, Inc. serves approximately 1,000 children from birth through 5 years of age each year providing affordable, comprehensive early childhood education and care to the children and families. The Childcare Learning Centers, Inc. is an umbrella agency with Head Start, Early Head Start, School Readiness, Child Day Care, and private programs

I am writing this testimony in support of the Senate Bill 25, an Act to Establishing the Office of Early Childhood.

The Office of Early Childhood will coordinate and ensure each program reaches its maximum effectiveness to get the best results for children and families. This was not possible when early childhood programs were spread over 5 agencies with different regulations, time frames, reports to be completed etc. Our program is a perfect example of how confusing this can be for programs and making sure we are adhering to each agency's regulations when we have classrooms that combine School Readiness opportunities with Child Day Care opportunities. Not only was staff finding this difficult but the families we serve were finding the various regulations very frustrating to make decisions. For example one program has a work requirement another does not, one program allows a child to stay enrolled if the family moves to the next town another program is not able to serve this child anymore.

The grandfathering language in this bill is very important for teachers and programs, I urge support of grandfathering. However, the language in section (3) limits the positions to Teachers that are currently in a classroom. I have staff that are in other positions such as Coordinators, Assistant Teachers, Director that have a Bachelor's degree with 12 credits in Early Childhood Education and they would be excluded from this grandfathering language.

Thank you for your attention in reading this testimony!

Please support SB 25, An Act Establishing the Office of Early Childhood.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Sargent
Director – School Readiness Programs
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.