



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

John L. Cattelan
Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs
S.B. 25, An Act Establishing the Office of Early Childhood and
S.B. 26, An Act Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood
Education
Education Committee
March 3, 2014

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 23 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

I'm here today to offer the Alliance's support for S.B. 25, An Act Establishing the Office of Early Childhood and S.B. 26 An Act Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is a strong supporter of any effort that will increase affordability and the quality of child care education. We believe these proposals are a very positive step.

Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs
241 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103
P 860 216 1474 F 860 522 1314

Connecticut's YMCAs, without an office of Early Childhood, receive funding from three state agencies. Coordinating of funding and delivery of services from one state agency is a proposal we strongly support. In addition, we are encouraged by the proposal's investment of funds to improve the early childhood licensing system and finance a structure to measure quality.

Finally, we are encouraged by the proposal's expansion of the number of school readiness slots and increasing the reimbursement rates for this program. We are also supportive of the increased investment in the Care 4 Kids program and the ultimate goal of universal pre-school for all of Connecticut's children.

I don't believe it is necessary for me to inform the members of the committee about the evidence that supports early childhood education. YMCAs across Connecticut exist to strengthen our communities and every day work with thousands of children, women and men to ensure everyone regardless of age, income or background – has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.