



Testimony on SB48 – February 27, 2014

Chairwoman Bartolomeo, Chairwoman Urban and distinguished members of the Committee on Children:

My name is Gerry Pastor and I am the Executive Director of the CT Child Care Association which proudly contains a diverse membership of 155 members representing almost 300 licensed programs in CT. In total we provide services to almost 25,000 children and their families.

Thank you for accepting our testimony regarding SB48 “An Act Concerning Nutrition Standards for Child Care Settings”.

CTCCA strongly supports all measures that aim to improve the health and safety of the children in our care. The proposed legislation is consistent with current best practice recommendations by most recognized experts. However we are not in support of this bill for the following reasons:

- At a time that we are struggling with improving the quality of our licensing process, this would add yet another responsibility to an already over-burdened function. Checking whether milk is 1% and juice is 100% is a relatively simple item, but determining whether 6 ounces of juice were served or 7 is a bit more complicated. Moreover, determining whether beverages that are in variance with the proposal might have been brought in by a child's guardian ... or not ... presents a significantly more complex task.
- From a provider perspective, we fight to maintain all of the already necessary requirements that rightfully exist to maintain the health and safety of our children. Tracking and providing evidence of whether our teachers are indeed serving the proper amounts, or whether nonconforming beverages were brought in by a child's guardian and maintaining evidence of this seems onerous.

As stated, we are in support of all issues that improve the health and safety of our children. This is certainly an issue that we will educate our members about as well as the additional 600 programs which we communicate with, however we hope that its message can be communicated and accomplished in a manner other than legislation.

Thank you again for considering these ideas and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss them further.

Respectfully,

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