

Testimony of Dana Binette
Community Children's Center
Before the Education Committee
Hearing on Low Wage Worker Proposal
Senate Bill 1044
March 12, 2015

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Committee,

I am testifying about wages for early childhood educators. This issue is very important to me. My name is Dana Binette. I am a teacher at the Community Children's Center in Mansfield.

I have a bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Connecticut and have been a teacher for over 25 years. I have the education, many years of experience and I recently won a national teacher award, yet I only make \$13.13 per hour. I am fortunate enough to have a husband that can support me because with my low salary I would not be able to live on my own. I live in a modest home in Willington and to put it in perspective it would take me approximately 6 weeks at my current salary to be able to make one mortgage payment.

I have worked with a great deal of outstanding teachers throughout my career however many of them chose to leave the early childhood education field due to the low wages. We need to keep the qualified, talented teachers in the classroom so we can provide children with the best education possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.