



Opposition to HB1044, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW WAGE EMPLOYERS"

Co-Chair Moore, Co-Chair Abercrombie, Ranking Member Markley, Ranking Member Wood and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Gerry Pastor and I serve as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Child Care Association. Our members consist of non-profit and for-profit providers that serve families across Connecticut looking for high-quality child-care at both infant/toddler and preschool ages.

On behalf of CCCA, we object to this legislation which we believe will create a large disparity between small employee centers and centers regulated in the legislation. Similar to HB6791 in the Labor Committee, the provisions in HB1044 issues penalties to any child care center that meets the employee capacity criteria established in the legislation.

Both small and large child care centers serve a uniform purpose of providing parents with affordable, high-quality options for children in order to create an environment of universal pre-kindergarten in Connecticut. This legislation does not serve to enhance that goal and would hamper further expansion of certain centers looking to extend service to areas of need in the state.

Finally, CCCA supports the causes which the proposed tax dollars will be directed towards. CCCA strongly supports higher wages for Early Childhood teachers however the increased revenue would only benefit teachers working in publically funded programs. It would increase the disparity of means between the two sectors and decrease the ability of privately funded programs to employ early childhood teachers and ultimately decrease the quality of these programs for CT children in childcare.

We deeply appreciate the committee's willingness to consider this testimony and are happy to answer any questions regarding this testimony submitted to the committee.

Gerry Pastor