

March 10, 2015

Dear Senator Moore, Representative A bercrombie and members of the Human Service Committee,

I am writing to you as a Toddler Teacher for Riverfront Children's Center in Groton, Ct. I would like to preface my letter in saying that I have the best job in the world. I get to teach eight one-year olds every day and spend my days surrounded by their innocence and curiosity. However, it is very discouraging that I am not able to make a wage that one can live on. I work a minimum of 40 hours a week. I teach, make lesson plans, assess children, have parent teacher conferences, etc but yet I make just slightly over minimum wage. I have a bachelor's degree from a high quality college, in addition to other classes in my field, yet I struggle to feed my own two children. I teach children at a time in their ages where a high quality education is crucial for their future development, yet I financially I make a quarter of that a teacher in public education makes. I love my career and feel I am making a difference for families that need it the most, but I fear I will not be able to stay in a field in which I cannot support myself and my family.

I am often told how important Early Childhood Education is for the future of society. However, the field cannot last with highly qualified teachers if the teachers are not able to make enough money to earn a living. I am writing to request that you consider a pay increase in the field of Early Childhood Education. This is a crucial step in the survival of a highly qualified education system.

Sincerely,



Stacey Pride

Riverfront Children's Center

Groton, CT

"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six."

- Maria Montessori