



Testimony of ~~Donna Labbe~~ Kristin Stoek, Community Outreach Collaborative
Coordinator,
~~Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative~~ Cradle to Career, Winchester's Collaborative for
Children
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 3, 2015

Local Community Plans
H.B.No. 6824 & Early Literacy Grant

~~Senator~~ ator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee

I am here to ask you to restore funds that the Governor's budget eliminates for the **Community Plans** for Early Childhood which help support Local Early Childhood Councils in over 50 communities and ~~the Early Literacy Grant which~~ help to create family learning experiences that serve Connecticut's most in need and hardest to serve children birth through age eight.

Through this support my organization, ~~the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative~~ Cradle to Career has:

- Adopted a Kindergarten Transition Policy that identifies potential students and helps prepare them for the upcoming kindergarten school year by ensuring consistency between school and community programs practices. Served over 3,200 Torrington families of children birth to 8 each year. We connect them to programs such as (name a few) to help their children be ready for kindergarten creating a positive impact on narrowing CT's achievement gap.
- Broken down barriers faced by families, and eliminated duplication of services at the local level and have a system in place that can be replicated at and provide support at the state level.

- Secured federal grant funding for Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) through local collaborative efforts in order to strengthen our region.
- ~~Secured over \$2 million dollars for Torrington over the past year alone as a result of the Community Plans for Early Childhood funding.~~

All of these results and benefits to children are echoed in over 50 Discovery communities. This is Connecticut's chance to build on these best practices in order to continue to create healthy outcomes for its children and families.