



# Plymouth Early Childhood Council

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March 3, 2015

**RE: HB 6824 Electronic Testimony**

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee,

On Behalf of the 92 members of the Plymouth Early Childhood Council, we urge you to reinstate funding to Community Planning Grants and the Parent Trust Fund.

The Plymouth Early Childhood Council (PECC), along with 41 other Discovery communities, is an essential collaborative at the local level whose mission is to work together to ensure all Plymouth's children are healthy, safe and successful. PECC works across sectors, collecting data to understand the stories that are specific to Plymouth families. Our work groups use Results Based Accountability when implementing strategies to turn the curve and better the lives of our children and families. Together we are making strides toward closing the achievement gap, connecting families to resources, improving the health and wellbeing of our children from birth, engaging parents and more.

PECC is the local early childhood council that is required under Appropriate Section of PA 14-39 (An Act Establishing an Office of Early Childhood), pertaining to the role and duties of early childhood councils. The Plymouth Early Childhood Council also serves as the local school readiness council. Most importantly, the Plymouth Early Childhood Council is the constant voice for families and providers in light of the ever changing leadership and platforms of superintendents and mayors.

PECC is implementing an Early Childhood Lending Library. This initiative will provide teaching resources to Plymouth preschools, nursery school, home day cares, libraries, public school teachers and home school families – enriching the lives of Plymouth's children birth to age six. This will be of special value to our home school families and home day cares who have limited funding. Library items are carefully selected to support alignment with the common core & early learning standards.

While we are the co-chairs of the PECC, we also wear other hats in the Plymouth Community. One co-chair is a parent of two children, President of the Board at Terry Nursery School, and a 2014 Parent Leadership Training Institute graduate. The other is the Children's Librarian in the Plymouth community and a member of the PLTI class of 2015.

Many other strong partnerships have brought programs to Plymouth. For example, the Plymouth Early Childhood Council partnered with the Terryville Public Library and the Friends of the Library to receive a CT Humanities grant for a visit from children's author Suzy Kline. A partnership with the Terryville Woman's Club brought Pinwheels for Prevention and a parenting workshop through the Wheeler Clinic for those families who were participating in the Plymouth's Back to School program. These are just a few examples of the way PECC has been able to leverage matching dollars. At least \$160,000.00 over the past four years has come into our community. Children and families benefit from local early childhood councils working towards a better community and ultimately a better Connecticut!

