

With the understanding that tough budget decisions have to be made, I feel it is

imperative that legislators sponsor Bill 6004 to require the Office of Early Childhood to collaborate with and provide resources to local early childhood councils like Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3).

C3 is an integral part of the foundation for educating our youngest citizens and insuring their success moving forward. The collaborative affords the building of relationships between the departments in our town, organizations and the families. Together we make shared decisions that impact families in the community that might not otherwise be afforded the help and services offered.

As a citizen of Colchester, a parent of a child who benefits greatly from the work that C3 has done for our community and a parent contributor to the C3 panel, I ask that you restore funding to the Community Plans for Early Childhood (\$750,000) and Improving Early Literacy lines (\$150,000). Investing in our children is investing in our future!

I thank you for your consideration, our town and our children are depending on you!

Sincerely,
Alyson Darvas