



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE ROSATI  
44TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4014  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
E-MAIL: Christine.Rosati@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE COMMITTEE

March 20, 2015

**SUPPORT HB 7020 to ensure funding for the Community Plans for Early Childhood remains allocated.**

---

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of HB 7020, An Act Concerning Early Childhood Educators and Initiatives.

My testimony is in reference to Sec. 7. of this bill that adds language to ensure state funding for early childhood community plans remains allocated. The state of CT and its Office of Early Childhood have provided state resources for the past four years to support the implementation of Community Plans for Early Childhood in 41 communities served by local early childhood councils (LECC's) across our state.

This funding is the result of a private-public partnership with the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund (GMF) and The Children's Fund of CT, who provide matching private funds. This funding supports the infrastructure of the local early childhood councils which is necessary for the implementation of the Early Childhood Community Plans. Additionally, there is also a local match which is leveraged by the LECC's.

The LECC's serve as the voice on the ground, addressing issues impacting children, birth through age eight and their families, in the areas of early care, education, mental health, physical health and safety.

The OEC is charged with establishing a statewide, coordinated early childhood system and the work of the LECC's around the Community Plans is a critical component. The LECC's assess the specific needs in each town to inform the OEC with the information necessary for an effective coordinated statewide early childhood system. The state of CT made significant investments into establishing a coordinated early childhood system and would be remiss not to allocate resources to support LECC's.

- An analysis completed by Holt, Wexler, Farnam titled *Families and Communities Raise Our Children: The Role and Cost of Effective Local Early Childhood Councils (2009)* states that that cost of supporting the infrastructure of an LECC ranges from \$45,000-\$150,000 annually, minimally. Community size would be a variable.
- FY 2014-2015 OEC budget of \$750,000 for Early Childhood Community Plans equates to approximately \*\*\$18,293. per community.

This relatively small line item creates a large return on the investment at both the state and local levels (see example below). These LECC's are a conduit for collaboration, coordination of services and programs, sharing resources and leveraging additional funding, including local matches and grants. These local, public and private dollars would not get into the community without the work of a formal, structured council.

Example:

Partnership Funds (GMF, **OEC & Children's Fund)	*\$50,000
Local Match (Local boards of education-\$3,000 each community))	\$12,000
Additional public and private grants	\$6,000
Re-deployed staff (from agencies within each community to assist the work of the LECC's in implementing the Community Plans)	\$27,460
Total	\$95,460

\*The NE Early Childhood Council (Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam & Sterling-KPPS)  
FY July 1 2014-June 30, 2015

---

*\*The Northeast Early Childhood Council (NECC) is one of 41 LECC's within the state of CT. Due to the rural nature of their region and lack of resources, they formed a regional council.*

Without the investment from the state and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), the LECC's could lose their private match and the ability to sustain their infrastructure. In the KPPS communities, there is no United Way or social service office. The LECC's, working in partnership with other community providers, programs, businesses and parents are the coordinating entity for issues affecting our children and a critical resource for parents and caregivers.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration.