



To: The Honorable Marilyn Moore, Co- Chair

The Honorable Catherine Abercrombie, Co-Chair

The Honorable Gayle Slossberg, Vice Chair

The Honorable Brandon McGee, Vice Chair

The Honorable Joe Markley, Ranking Member

The Honorable Terri Wood, Ranking Member

Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Darlene C. Ragozzine, Executive Director, and Connecticut Head Start Association

Magdalena Rosales-Alban, Chairperson, Connecticut Head Start Association

***Re: Raised Bill No. 5823 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A STATE –WIDE COORDINATED TWO-
GENERATIONAL MODEL***

Date: February, 5,2015

The Connecticut Head Start Association (CTHSA) supports RB 5823, with recommendations. Head Start has embraced a two-generation approach to early learning since its inception in 1965. Indeed, it has at its core the idea that families and communities are integral to supporting children’s successful early learning and development. As an association, we applaud the efforts of Representative Toni Walker, for introducing this bill to foster success for low income families. We would like to offer Head Start and Early Head Start, as proven models of success for whole family approaches that are tailored to the diverse needs of our communities.

Two Generations Together, a report recently released by the National Head Association in partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute, highlights the exceptional efforts of several effective efforts in this

area. We would urge the committee to read this report in order to ensure that our Head Start and Early Head Start programs are included as models in any state-wide pilot for two-generational programs. The goals of such programs, which are outlined in HB 5823, are a part of our programs, which continue to strengthen the importance of the whole child and whole family approach. ***According to the aforementioned report, 84% of Americans agree that Head and Early Head Start should partner with organizations that help the parents of low-income children further their education and receive job training***

We encourage this committee to move HB5823 forward. As Head Start celebrates its 50th anniversary year, we must continue to embrace not only our proven two-generational efforts, but many of the other policies that have been fundamental to comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start programs since their conception. We would be happy to assist the committee regarding this bill and to share more information about our programs.

Respectively Submitted,

Darlene. Ragozzine, Executive Director CTHSA

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