

Testimony on HB 5044

Office of Early Childhood Budget

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Member of the Committee:

My name is Doranne Rayer. I am the Assistant Director of Classroom Management at Sleeping Giant Day Care, a state funded center, in Hamden, CT.

I believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded.

If Sleeping Giant Day Care did not get funded and had to close, I would lose my job and then I would have to apply for housing, food stamps and other state programs just to survive. It is hard enough to survive on the small amount I get paid every week.

Sleeping Giant Day Care and other state funded child day care centers (CDC) are high quality NAEYC accredited programs. We have to have either a bachelor or associate degree by 2020. We have a low child to staff ratio (5:1 and 7:1) in order to help the children in our program. We have a rigorous curriculum to make sure our children are ready for kindergarten when they leave us.

We work for very little compared to public school administrators/teachers and we have the same degrees. I feel these young children are our future. I chose to work here for the love I have for children, not for the money. But the money would help a lot.

Please be sure to keep the state funded child day care center funding intact.

Sincerely,

