



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**



Connecticut Office of  
**Early Childhood**

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Nancy Wyman  
*Lt. Governor*

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.  
*Commissioner*

**Testimony of Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D., Commissioner**  
**Office of Early Childhood**  
**Before the Children's Committee**  
**Re: H.B. 5303 – An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2016**

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Myra Jones-Taylor, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, submits this testimony to the Children's Committee regarding H.B. 5303 – An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity.

The Office of Early Childhood supports the intent of Section 1 of this bill. Connecticut, like the rest of the nation, faces an obesity crisis and measures such as this bill work to reduce the child obesity rate across the state.

This bill would apply to all licensed child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes and license-exempt early childhood programs located in and associated with a local or regional board of education. This bill is not limited to those programs that accept funding through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) that is administered by the State Department of Education.

The OEC has the authority to monitor all licensed child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes, but does not have the authority to oversee early childhood programs located in and overseen by the local or regional board of education.

In Section 2 of the bill, the OEC suggests the language include an exception to the screen time prohibition for children with disabilities using screen devices for purposes of augmentative communication.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill before the Children's Committee.

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