Testimony on HB 5044

Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is Patricia Gelzinis, I am an assistant teacher at the Torrington Child Care Center, a state funded center, in Torrington, CT for the past 34 years.

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

Torrington Child 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 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,

Patricia Gelzinis