

Testimony on HB 5044

Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is, Deborah Quick I am a teacher at the Torrington Child Care Center, a state funded center, in Torrington, CT for the past 1 years.

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

If Torrington Child Care does not continue to get the much needed funding, I would lose my job. Having this position is vital to my family's survival. Without it, it would make it nearly impossible to pay bills. I would end up back on food stamps, something I've worked hard on getting off.

TCCC provides a safe, clean and healthy learning environment for the children. We provide 80% of their daily nutritional needs by serving breakfast, lunch and snack at no extra charge to families. We also pride ourselves on the wonderful reputation we have in the Torrington community. We have been told by kindergarten teachers that they can tell which children come from our program because they are ready to learn. We feel very proud when our children are going to kindergarten ready. TCCC is a wonderful healthy environment to work in. I love coming to work every day to watch the children learn and grow.

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,

