

Testimony on HB 5004
Office of Early Childhood Budget

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Member of the Committee

My name is Bette Stano, I am a teacher at The Torrington Childcare Center. I have worked there for approximately 6 years.

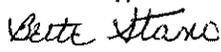
I believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded. I previously taught many public school teacher's children during my 34 years of teaching. During my time at TCCC I have seen no differences in the children, only a difference in the opportunities they have been given at this State funded program.

Torrington Childcare Center and other state funded child daycare center's (CDC) are high quality, NAEYC accredited programs. Teachers are required to have a bachelor or associates degree by 2020. We maintain child staff ratios well below those mandated by law. We maintain a 1 to 5 or 1 to 7 ratio in order to meet the needs of all children. We have a rigorous curriculum to make sure our children are kindergarten ready when they leave us.

We work for very little money compared to public school teachers and need the same education. I chose to work in child care because of my love of children not for the compensation. During my first year at Torrington Childcare, I put \$2000.00, of my own funds, into my classroom in order to ensure children would have the greatest opportunities possible. Although a pay increase would be nice, I am here because I want to offer children the best I have to give not for the money.

Please be sure to keep state funded child daycare monies intact. It truly is an investment in our future that cannot be replaced.

Sincerely,


Bette Stano