

Testimony on HB 5004

Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is Nancy Arbito. I am a teacher at the Childcare Learning Center, Inc. in Stamford, CT.

I believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded for several reasons that I am asking you to consider valued before you make the final decision:

If the Childcare Learning Centers closes its doors, many families, children and teachers will be affected. I personally will lose a job that I had for eighteen years. I will not be able to provide a monthly income to support my husband covering mortgage, common charges, medical bills, and other expenses necessary to maintain a stable and comfortable life.

We preschool teachers get paid the smallest salary in the education system. Although, we do this job because we have passion, dedication and commitment with the families and we strive to perform quality of education.

Childcare Learning Centers and other state funded programs are high quality NAEYC accredited programs. We follow strict guidelines from the Office of Early Childhood and we either currently have a Bachelor's degree or are working on obtaining by the 2020 deadline. We have a rigorous curriculum to make sure our children are ready for kindergarten when they leave us.

Please be sure to keep the funding intact for all state funded programs offering care and education to our young children so that they are ready for life time of learning. This is also extremely important for families so that they can continue to work and be self-sufficient.

Sincerely,

Nancy Arbito