

Testimony on HB 5004

Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is Marie Boursiquot. 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.

If the Childcare Learning Centers did not get funded and had to close, I would lose my job and then would be forced to apply for state funded housing, food stamps, health care and other state funded programs to survive. It is hard enough to survive on the small amount I get paid every week.

Childcare Learning Centers and other state funded programs are highly qualified NAEYC accredited programs. We follow strict guidelines from the Office of Early Childhood and we either currently have a Bachelor's degree or, like myself, are working on obtaining one by the 2020 deadline. 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 the money.

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 lifetime learning. This is extremely important for families so that they can continue to work and be self-sufficient.

Sincerley,

Marie Boursiquot