

Testimony on HB 5004
Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is Phyllis DiFrancia. I am employed at the Childcare Learning Center, Inc. in Stamford, CT. and I believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded.

Childcare Learning Centers provide many high quality services for families in this community. The Childcare Learning Centers are NAEYC accredited and follow strict guidelines from the Office of Early Childhood. Many of our teachers at Childcare Learning Centers have Bachelor Degrees and some are working toward obtaining their degree by the 2020 deadline. We have a rigorous curriculum to assure that all our enrolled children are ready for Kindergarten when they leave our programs.

We work very hard and for much lower paying salaries compared to public school teachers with the same degree. If Childcare Learning Centers did not get funded, we would have to close. It would be a tremendous loss to the community and to the State of Connecticut. Please keep the funding intact for all state funded programs offering education for young children while we prepare them as life-long learners. This is extremely important for the families, so that they can continue to work and be self-sufficient.

Sincerely,

Phyllis DiFrancia