

Testimony on HB5004
Office of Early Childhood Budget

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

My name is Nancy Olli. I am a teacher at Childcare Learning Center's School Readiness Program in Stamford, CT (CLC) This program was given it's initial start by then Mayor Dannel Malloy.

I strongly support fully funding Connecticut's early childhood education programs. CLC is a high quality NAEYC accredited program. We follow guidelines from Connecticut's Office of Early Childhood and our teachers have a B.A. or 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. These children are our future.

We work for very little compared to public school teachers, yet have the same education and adhere to rigorous standards. If our program did not get funded and had to close, I would lose my job and be put in great financial straits. I already have a second job just to help pay the bills. I chose to work with preschoolers because I feel I am good at what I do and I have a positive and important impact on their lives. I don't do for the money, but a livable wage would make life easier.

Please keep the funding intact for all state funded programs offering care and education to our young children so that they are ready for lifetime of learning and their parents can continue to work and contribute to our society.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Olli