



**Middletown Adult Education
Even Start**

A DUAL GENERATIONAL FAMILY LEARNING PROGRAM

Written Testimony of Kelsey Carabetta
Parent, Middletown Even Start Program

OEC Budget Hearing February 16, 2016

RE: House Bill 5044

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Kelsey Carabetta. I am a Middletown Even Start parent. Even Start is a dual generational family learning program that provides comprehensive education programs and transitional services. These programs improve the academic success of children and parents in the classroom and increases parents' economic opportunities. The Middletown Adult Education College and Career Center is an essential part of my Even Start Program. It offers a variety of resources that offer a viable transition to post secondary education or employment opportunities. This is the only place I can complete my high school education and take the next step to economic independence so that I can break the cycle my family is in and build a future.

I am writing to urge you to reinstate funding for the Even Start Program line item in the Office of Early Childhood budget.

In my community, the Middletown Early Childhood Collaborative in Partnership with the Middletown Public Schools, received \$146,952.67 from this line item which was leveraged to more than \$200,000 to support creating healthy outcomes for families with young children and paving a way to higher education and careers.

As a parent in the Even Start Program, I am able to further my education. Without the program, I would not be able to receive my high school diploma due to not having a child care provider for my daughter, Aubree Carabetta (age 2). She has also benefited from Even Start since we started in January 2015. I have seen a tremendous amount of growth and milestone achievements in my daughter. She is very good with other children and can even count to eleven. There is no doubt in my mind that Even Start is the reason why she is excelling so well. We would be sitting at home alone everyday until she went to pre-school

and she would have no social skills, all because I wouldn't have a diploma and wouldn't have this program. I love Even Start because it has given me such confidence in my parenting skills and has made me feel good about my education. This is the only choice I have to get my diploma and my daughter would not get the amazing education she has received without Even Start.