



**Middletown Adult Education
Even Start
*A DUAL GENERATIONAL FAMILY LEARNING PROGRAM***

Written Testimony of Hailing Lin
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 Hailing Lin. 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 have a daughter, Chloe Yu, and she is 2 years old. I like to come here to learn English so that one day I have an opportunity to get into college. The College and Career Center will help me with this process. My goal is to learn more knowledge to get a better job. Of course that is all based on your support. Without your funds, my daughter can not go to school, explore and learn. Without school, that will increase more child problems in society. In my situation, if you cut the program out, my daughter will have to stay with me at home.. I don't want my kids to have any delays in

education or development. The Even Start program helps to recognize and get help early if needed. I am not the only mom here, there are many and we all need help. So please don't give up on us, please continue to fund us.