

February 23, 2016

To Whom it May Concern,

I am aware that there is a bill proposed to discontinue funding for the Accreditation Facilitation Project. As the director of a small school for young children, I found the AFP to be an invaluable resource to my program. Without participating in the AFP, we most likely would not have achieved our current standing as a program accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

I urge you to continue funding the AFP program in Connecticut. NAEYC Accreditation is a gold standard that all early childhood programs should strive for, yet there are only a small percentage of schools that achieve it. I believe if funding were not available, many programs would never become accredited. Our school is better because of the AFP program. My staff have received professional development workshops, related college course work, mentoring and support to help us reach our goals. We will continue to need AFP as we work towards meeting NAEYC educational requirements for staff, and going through the process to be reaccredited.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Manfredi

Director

Calvary Nursery School

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