



Testimony of Tricia Godfrey, Hamden's Partnership for Young Children
Education Committee
February 24, 2016

This testimony is in regards to **Bill 5306 An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood**. We do not support the changes related to the regional Accreditation Facilitation Projects (AFP) in Section 6 (see below and request you reject those changes).

Sec. 6. Section 17b-749e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

The Office of Early Childhood shall, **[establish and fund five regional accreditation projects, within available appropriations. The office shall select qualified applicants for each region through a request for proposal process. The office shall give priority to child day care facilities where at least twenty per cent of the children live with families earning less than seventy-five per cent of the state median income level]** within available appropriations, support programs providing child care services to achieve accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The office shall set priorities for receipt of support under this section.

The AFP, in existence since 1998, supports early care and education programs who voluntarily or by mandate go through the NAEYC accreditation process. This is an aspect of the early care and education system in Connecticut which works and has proven itself year after year. The regional design allows for relationship building and provides support through a variety of strategies. These free supports help programs improve the quality of care being offered to families and children throughout CT. Quality in early care and education programs in Hamden and across CT is a significant challenge due to many factors. With many aspects of the early care and education system in need of improvement, we do not think it is wise to put time, money and energy into dismantling that which is working well.