

I am opposing Bill 5557 until further information on the impact of a "sliding pay scale" can be put out for a public hearing. The bill would give the OEC the right to establish a salary scale, but does not address how programs are to pay staff the new salary. The initiative needs funding first, and an impact study to determine the cost to community programs and public schools before any scale is required. A draft of the expected pay scale should be out for public comment before this initiative receives legislative approval.

The community and public schools that receive state funding are at a tipping point. There have been many requirements put upon the programs without sufficient funding to pay for these additional requirements. With the state fiscal crisis, it is unfair to put an additional unfunded mandate on ECE programs.

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