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S.B.912, AAC REVISIONS TO THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS
REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
Education Committee
March 1, 2017

Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 21 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut. We support the intent of S.B. 912, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Staff Qualifications Requirement for Early Childhood Educators but we do have one concern.

We do support the language in the bill that allows an individual with a degree in early childhood from a regionally accredited college or university to be considered qualified as a teacher in a state funded program.

However, we do have concerns regarding allowing any person with a bachelor's degree in any subject, plus 12 credits in early childhood education to be

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considered a qualified staff member in a state funded early childhood program. The Alliance believes those bachelor degrees should be in a related field and allow teachers to become certified via an alternative route. This is currently state law.

The YMCAs of Connecticut have over 3,100 children enrolled in our early childhood programs. Our Ys are finding it very difficult to find qualified teachers. In addition, I was recently informed by one of our Childcare Directors in Bridgeport there are no approved bachelorette programs for early childhood in Southern Fairfield County. Any reasonable way that can be found to allow our early childhood programs to find qualified teachers would be appreciated.

Thank you.