

February 28, 2017

To our esteemed legislators,

There are not enough qualified early childhood teachers in Connecticut. Here at the University of Connecticut and other higher ed institutions in Connecticut, we have worked to address the pressing need in the State for training highly qualified early childhood teachers by contributing to the development of the Early Childhood Teacher Credential. UCONN was among the first programs in CT to be recognized and approved to offer a training program leading to the ECTC. We are totally committed to being part of the solution to meet the workforce demand and produce high quality teachers.

Educational disparities can best be addressed by a workforce whose training is aligned with high standards for achieving competency in intentional curriculum development, instruction, assessment, and family-based communication. The creation of the ECTC raised the bar for us faculty in training our early childhood teachers outside of the public school employment/certification track. We recognized its value and believe that to undo the existing legislation that requires it of our teachers for our most vulnerable children is a tremendous loss to them. SB 912 will be a step back for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn L. Robinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JoAnn L. Robinson, PhD
Professor, Director of Early Childhood Education and Early Intervention
Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies
University of Connecticut