

February 28, 2017

Connecticut Joint Education Committee

I am writing in response to Senate Bill 912. As an early childhood educator, I want Connecticut's early childhood programs to be the best for children and for families. I support the bill in the statement that teachers should hold a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or other such acceptable degree. My concern of Senate Bill 912 is the exclusion of individuals who received the bachelor's degree outside of the state of Connecticut.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, a state accredited university. As stated on their website, Ball State University Teachers College is in the top 25 in the nation for the number of national recognized educator preparation programs it offers.

I have been in the field of early childhood education for almost 20 years. It saddens me that, with my early childhood degree and many years in the field of early childhood education, I am not considered to have the appropriate staff qualifications to have the primary responsibility for a classroom of children. I feel that ALL individuals with bachelor's degrees from ALL accredited universities or colleges should be allowed to hold the required staff qualifications without further education or tests.

I am asking of this committee to reconsider the portion of the bill that excludes bachelor's degrees from institutions of higher education outside of the state of Connecticut as appropriate staff qualifications.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Diane Wallen

Teacher

YWCA New Britain