



**John L. Cattelan**  
**Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs**  
**H.B. 5450, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS**  
**REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
**Education Committee**  
**March 14, 2018**

Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is John Cattelan and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 21 YMCAs (including 37 branches and over 210 program sites) across the state of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is aware that many early childhood centers will be unable to meet the staff qualifications for School Readiness by the current deadline. However, we would favor extending the deadline, while maintaining the Bachelor's Degree requirement.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs would also request a study commission be established to investigate and report back to the Education Committee.

The commission would be tasked with identifying the reasons why enough staff and citizens are unable to qualify for the current standards and recommend policy changes to attain the goal.

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. Any reasonable way that can be found to allow our early childhood programs to find qualified teachers would be appreciated.