

TESTIMONY of David Morgan

March 13, 2018

RE: RB 5450 – An Act Concerning Staff Qualifications Requirement For Early Childhood Education

Senators Slossberg & Boucher, Representatives Fleischmand Lavielle, and distinguished members of the Education Committee – my name is David Morgan and I am the President/CEO of TEAM Inc, an organization that provides high-quality Early Childhood Education throughout Greater Naugatuck Valley, Milford, and Waterbury, including Infant/Toddler & Preschool via the School Readiness Initiative, Child Day Care, Preschool Development Grants, Head Start, MIECHV, and more. I have committed my entire career toward Early Childhood Education, including my past accomplishments as a Bachelor-level Head Teacher in both Infant/Toddler & Preschool.

I am writing in strong opposition to RB 5450 – it does not reflect the exceptional commitments of the Early Childhood workforce, including the many professional educators who have progressed toward the attainment of a Bachelor’s Degree. More importantly, it does not recognize the research and science within the field of Early Childhood – **the best interests of children & families is at stake here; the research & evidence clearly demonstrates a correlation between Early Childhood workforce credentials and child & family outcomes.**

I appreciate the recognition that the current July 2018 and July 2021 deadlines are unattainable, therefore I recommend that the legislature push back on the deadlines and/or revise the percentages (currently at 50%/50%) toward a more realistic incremental progression. I also recommend the establishment of a Task Force to report back to the Education Committee by January/2019 with recommendations to meet the future Early Childhood workforce credential deadline. This approach preserves the exceptional progress we have made in Connecticut for young children and the Early Childhood workforce – rather than cast aside and give up on the goal of Bachelor level, which is to dismiss the field of Early Childhood and what is best for young children & families.

Thank you for your time and consideration for high-quality Early Care & Education – including its workforce and the outcomes for young children & families.

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