

Dear Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Sanchez, Senator Bye, Senator Somers, Representative Lavielle and members of the Education Committee:

As an early childhood educator I want to clearly express my concern about Sec 6, Subsection (f) of SB No. 183 as the kindergarten year is a critical developmental time. The children of CT deserve teachers who have specific content competency in child development, preparation in early identification and intervention as well as specific knowledge in working with children and families. These are the 112 and 113 certified early childhood educators who have specific coursework and related, applied clinical experience.

I do not, and ask that you do not, support the inclusion of kindergarten in the elementary teaching certification. If a teacher elects to seek a second license as a way to expand her own professional options, wonderful. I cannot support the devaluing of the human growth and development, pedagogical practices and inclusive nature of the early childhood profession, preparation and certification requirements. Those who work with our youngest children must have the preparedness and desire to work with young children and their families in support of academic and social emotional growth.

We are at the leading edge of early childhood, early care and education in this state. Our efforts should be to further refine the certification areas so that each teacher can address the academic needs of the students and their developmental and environmental needs. Kindergarten should remain with early childhood educators.

Respectfully submitted,

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