5th March 2019

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez and all of the esteemed members of the Education Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB7250 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY. I support the bill because as a stay at home parent of 6 years, and former recreational professional of 10+ years I can tell you without a doubt that children do better in all areas when they have time to play during the day. Children acquire vital problem solving and social skills while building resilience and self confidence during play time in an unstructured environment. The flip side is that highly structured sedentary activity does not help children in these key areas yet our children spend the bulk of their time in this type of environment!

The research is pretty clear on the advantages of expanding unstructured play time for young children and yet we continue to use an educational model that contracts play time while expanding academic expectations. We wonder why our high school and college aged young adults are unable to solve their own problems without hand holding from adults and why they seem to fold and give up when confronted with new situations. We stripped them of the time they needed to grow and develop these skills in favor of more time sitting at a desk or being shuffled from adult led activity to the next.

It's time for our children's developmental needs to be met in elementary schools and this piece of legislation would be an excellent first step in Connecticut. I urge the committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Quigley