Testimony of Merrill Gay in support of Senate Bill 930
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR MODEL.

Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 930. My name is Merrill Gay and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, a statewide membership organization committed to ensuring that all children in Connecticut are healthy, safe and ready for lifelong success.

This bill would do allow for a small scale pilot in four cities to explore the feasibility of using a business incubator model to encourage the creation of family child care business. Currently, one can get a child care license either as a Child Care Center or as a Family Child Care Home. There isn’t a provision for family child care businesses in a congregate facility like a business incubator. This bill is intended to create that provision for five years to allow for experimentation and analysis.

Family child care holds the potential of helping to solve the dire shortage of infant toddler care. Currently, there are enough licensed infant toddler slots to serve just 27% of the children under age three. As employers tell us that there are lots of openings that they can’t fill, one of the ways to get parents back into the workforce is to expand the supply of child care. We urge you to support this bill.

www.earlychildhoodalliance.com
(860)819-3647