Testimony to the Education Committee in Support of a Pilot Project for an Early Childhood Incubator Business

March 6, 2019

Submitted by: Ken House, 59 Magnolia Street, Newington, CT, 06111

Good afternoon Members of the Education Committee:

I am submitting this testimony to support SB 930; “An Act concerning the creation of a Pilot Program for an Early Childhood Business Incubator Model.” I am asking that this bill be passed so more public housing residents – I am the ROSS Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency Coordinator at the New Britain Housing Authority – can access to childcare for their kids.

As the ROSS Coordinator, I work with multiple families that struggle with childcare. In many cases, their net income is greater when they don’t work due to high childcare costs. If there were more childcare businesses, one where people were trained to do this work, my clients would feel more secure leaving their kids there, it would help me do my job and help more residents increase their self-sufficiency. My residents tell me often they can’t find daycare in New Britain and that waiting lists are long. They also have said they do not want to leave their kid anywhere because they don’t know if providers can be trusted. They would prefer having someone experienced to watch their children.

In meetings with the YWCA and the Coalition for New Britain Youth, I have heard that there might be an upcoming childcare training and incubator project. The project would provide training to how to operate a small daycare business. This type of business is EXACTLY what a place like the New Britain Housing Authority needs. If housing is a foundation for positive life outcomes, reliable early childhood education is almost as critical in giving our parents the security they need to work, pay rent, and contribute to the local economy.

I firmly support the initiative the YWCA and its partners are trying to begin. This incubator would be an asset to people who serve the community. Please consider this legislation because it would help the families I serve and enable them to become more self-sufficient.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. House, Jr.
ROSS Program Coordinator
New Britain Housing Authority