Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Dawn Abrahamson, and I live in MIDDLETOWN.

I am honored to be presenting testimony on the issue of S.B. No. 931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

This is an issue that is very important to me. Early Childhood Educator in a public school for 22 years.

Quality childcare workers are needed in private businesses and non-profit and non-public school preschool programs. In order to maintain quality teachers, programs need to be able to pay them better. The work conditions, benefits and pay needs to improve in order to improve the quality of early childhood education.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut’s young children, and requires immediate action. Children will be better prepared for school because their teachers are better prepared to meet their needs while they are in preschool.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about S.B. No. 931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. Thank you for your consideration.