Dear Education Committee Chairs Sanchez and McCrory,

I am writing in support of S.B. 931 An Act Concerning Payments to Child Care Providers as it not only addresses the gap between costs and payments but also acknowledges the need for a livable wage for those who care for our infants, toddlers and youngest children. It has been nearly two decades with only a 3% increase in Care4Kids payments. We have seen costs increase and other workforce wages, including the minimum wage increase significantly while early care and education wages remain low. Early childhood educators are professionals who contribute to the health, wellness and success of our society today and for future decades. The work of early childhood educators is important work with public value and should be compensated fairly. Dedicated, talented early care educators should not have to work additional jobs to pay their own bills. As the minimum wages continues to increase more early childhood educators will have to make other career choices to support themselves and their families. An increase in Care4Kids program payments will support families and early childhood educators for the betterment of Connecticut’s children.

Respectfully submitted,

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S.B. No. 931 (RAISED) EDUCATION, ‘AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS’, to require Care4Kids program payments to be at least equal to the seventy-fifth percentile of the market cost of child care; to require that any increase in funding to child care centers and school readiness program providers are to be used for increasing educator salaries; and to reestablish school readiness grant rates in the general statutes and to increase such rates.