
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. I am a Early Childhood Director who has worked in the field for 30+ years and I talk to families every day that cannot afford quality education for their young child even if they qualify for Care4Kids. With Care4Kids, families still owe an average of $150.00 per week, most of the families in East Hartford cannot afford those rates. This means that until age 3 when the children can qualify for a school readiness program or age 5 when they can attend kindergarten, families must either stay home with their child or choose to find care in unlicensed situations.

Care4Kids reimbursements do not cover the cost of Infant/toddler rates for families. In the town of East Hartford there are very few infant/toddler spaces available. At my center we have trouble filling the 16 spaces that we have due to families not being able to afford those rates. I see families everyday that want to work to support their family but cannot afford to work because of the low payment rates.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut’s young children, and requires immediate action. An increase in payment rates to Early Childhood Educators under Care4Kids would mean that more families would be able to join the work force and stay in the work force. They would be able to contribute to society and their families well being. The children would benefit from being in an early childhood educational setting which further strengthens their family situations and society in general.

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