Testimony regarding:S.B. No. 935 AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO DEVELOP AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

Submitted By:
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I am honored to be presenting testimony on the issue of S.B. No. 935 AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO DEVELOP AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.

This is an issue that is very important to me. I am an early childhood educator at Post University. Being a witness to the time and effort the students in the program devote to reaching their goal of being a part of the early childhood education field, I believe they should receive fair compensation for this extremely important job.

Having been in the education and human services field for over 30 years, 27 years with the state Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and 8 years where I have been teaching at 2 universities, I have become aware of many people who have dreams of entering the early education field but have chosen not to or have been forced to leave because they cannot afford to work for such low wages. That, compiled with student loan debt, can make it prohibitive for many otherwise qualified individuals to work in the field.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut’s young children, and requires immediate action. One way to stop the drain of retaining quality in our early education programs, is to begin showing the respect these professionals deserve by compensating them in a fair and equitable manner. This is necessary to ensure the young children of CT have the opportunity to begin building necessary skills to keep them successful all their lives.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about S.B. No. 935 AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO DEVELOP AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR COMPENSATION SCHEDULE. Thank you for your consideration.