Testimony from Izzi Greenberg, Director, Middlesex Coalition for Children

S.B. No. 935 (RAISED) EDUCATION. ‘AN ACT REQUARING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO DEVELOP AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony on this and the other early childhood bills before the committee today. I run the Middlesex Coalition for Children, which works to improve outcomes for children and their families in Middletown and Middlesex County. Our coalition includes a wide range of families, schools, programs, and early care and education programs.

I’m submitting testimony on S.B. No. 935, which would require the Office of Early Childhood to develop an early childhood educator compensation schedule and for early childhood program providers to implement such compensation schedule.

As a state we are demanding a professional Early Childhood workforce, and for the right reasons. We need quality education for our youngest learners. But quality costs money, and workers have options. In order to retain a professional, quality workforce, we must be willing to compensate people for their skills and expertise.

The most important development happens between birth and kindergarten. Quality care establishes the basis for a healthy and productive life and having teachers that are supported and compensated supports quality. Early care teachers are increasingly asked to be experts...in child development, social-emotional growth, early childhood learning benchmarks, nutrition, and the list goes on and on. They have degrees and expertise but aren’t paid rates commensurate with their knowledge. Our early care system needs stable, long-term, quality teaching staff to ensure the best and brightest future for our children.

We are increasingly losing quality educators because they are not able to support their families on early care teaching salaries.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective,

Izzi Greenberg
Executive Director