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 assistant preschool teacher, and have worked in this field for almost a year. While the reward of teaching young children is amazing, the pay truly isn't. I have two kids of my own that I am the sole support for. with my pay I am still considered below poverty level.

Early Childhood Educators teach because they love to teach these young children, the pay is not enough though. With budgets being cut teachers are left to buy materials for our classrooms on our own, so we need to decide do we dip into our personal money that we use for our families and our bills or let the kids in our classroom go without that specific item. Because of the low pay a lot of good teachers are choosing to leave this field for a better paying field. since I started working in the ECE field I have seen 7 teachers in the preschool I work at leave for higher paying positions or different types of work all together, that's not mentioning the 3 substitute teachers who left and the others who are planning on leaving. These teachers didn't leave because their love for teaching has changed, but the cost of providing for their families is more than love can pay.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut’s young children, and requires immediate action. The children will benefit too from the teachers getting paid what is deserved for the work they do. The more a person can concentrate on work rather than how are they going to pay for something they need will mean a more productive and meaningful job done. The children will get teachers who love them and love the job they are doing.
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.