Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

Public Hearing, March 24th, 2021

Testimony in favor of HB 6654 “An Act Establishing a Child Care Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.”

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Henri, Representative Cheeseman and Members of the Committee, my name is Mary Cecchinato and I am the Executive Director of the Torrington Child Care Center and we serve 46 children and families during a school year and I am also Co-Chair of the State Funded Child Development Center’s Director Forum. State Funded Centers established over 50 years ago provide high quality, affordable early care and education to over 4,000 children ages birth to school age throughout Connecticut. We appreciate the investments the Legislature has make over the years to ensure low and moderate working families can work with knowledge that their children are in safe, healthy, enriching environment.

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 6654, “An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax,” for working families in Connecticut. During this unprecedented pandemic, the issue of affordable, accessible, child care became a pressing public policy discussion. As families lost jobs, schools closed and working families struggled to find child care, it became very evident that child care is critical to Connecticut’s economy. Health care workers, first responders and other critical workers scrambled to find child care and many child care centers stepped up and offered services.

The bill before would provide financial assistance to families and lessen the burden of the cost of child care. The child care tax credit is part of several innovative legislative proposals concerning the financial sustainability of the child care industry. Bills include expansion of Care4Kids subsidies to families seeking jobs or enrolled in education programs; increase in per child grants for school readiness and state funded centers as well as allocated ESSER dollars to help families pay for child care; establishing a pay scale to adequately compensate teachers and expanding access to child care.
The child care tax credit is smart public policy that will help families and strengthen the economy in Connecticut. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully Submitted

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