

1. Name:

Edie Reichard

2. Email:

3. Town *

Hamden

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☐ Community Organization

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5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

TESTIMONY REGARDING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDOWMENT

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Edie Reichard

Senator Maher, Representative Farrar, Commissioner Trueworthy and members of the Early Childhood Endowment Advisory Board:

My name is Edie Reichard. I am the director of Sleeping Giant Day Care in Hamden. I have been the director for over 20 years. I am also a member of the CT Early Childhood Alliance.

I am submitting testimony today to let you know how important the Endowment is to Early Childhood Programs in helping to increase quality throughout the State. It will also help families in need of quality care for their children.

The Endowment will help programs attract people to the early education field. It will allow us to be able to pay staff a livable wage. If we can pay better wages, offer better benefits, and support professional development we can keep staff longer. This will lead to more consistent staff in classroom which fosters more stable staff/child relationships. More funding will allow us to offer more professional development in areas like: child development, behavior management, literacy instruction and culturally responsive care.

More funding will help to improve learning environments by allowing programs funds to buy high quality learning materials such as: multicultural materials, manipulatives, science and math supplies, and art supplies. It will allow programs to build or upgrade playground equipment to make it safer.

More funding will help expand access to support services by allowing programs to offer important services such as: developmental screening, Speech/Language therapy, Occupational therapy, Physical therapy, behavioral therapy, family counseling, home visiting, and mental health for staff and families. All this will help to identify and support children with special needs as early as possible when intervention is the most effective.

More funding will help with strengthening family engagement by allowing programs to hire family service staff, run workshops for families, provide translators and translation services, coordinate home visits, and help with parent -teacher meetings. Once families are more involved, we will see improved outcomes across language, social emotional and academic domains.

More funding will help support curriculum and assessment quality by providing resources to programs. They can invest in evidence-based curricula, child assessment tools, technology to help with documentation, and more family communication resources. High quality curricula helps to guide teachers in purposeful learning experiences, while assessments help identify progress and areas of need.

More funding will help to ensure program stability and long-term planning. This will be achieved by reducing cutbacks and staff lay-offs. It will also help stop the elimination of enrichment programs (art, music, outdoor learning and more).

In closing, increased stable funding lets programs plan long-term improvements necessary to run quality programs. Programs will no longer have to survive by the skin of their teeth year after year.

Thank you, Governor, General Assembly, and the Office of Early Childhood for creating this Endowment fund to help programs, families, and businesses in Connecticut.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my testimony.

Edie Reichard

Director Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc.

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