

1. Name:

Tyshell Gore

2. Email:

3. Town \*

Hamden

4. I am a: \*

Please select at most 2

☐ Parent

☒ Childcare Provider

☐ Early Childhood Educator

☒ Community Organization

☐ Employer

☐ Advocate

☐ Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: \*

Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board Public Hearing  
December 10, 2025

Good evening members of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Tyshell Gore, and I am the owner and director of The Learning Center in Connecticut, as well as director of The Turnaround Table, an organization dedicated to supporting youth, families, and community stability across New Haven and Hamden.

I am writing today in strong support of robust, sustained investment in early childhood education through the Early Childhood Education Endowment. As a long-time childcare provider, community partner, and employer, I see every day how critical high-quality early learning is—not only for children, but for working parents, our local workforce, and the long-term health of our communities.

For seven years, my organization has served infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children, including families facing housing insecurity, financial hardship, and involvement with DCF. Our staff works tirelessly to meet state standards, maintain licensing compliance, pursue NAEYC accreditation, and provide safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive. Yet the cost of delivering true quality—qualified staff, competitive wages, curriculum materials, facility improvements, mental-health supports, and extended-day services—continues to rise far faster than reimbursement rates or family affordability.

This Endowment has the potential to finally stabilize early childhood programs like mine, ensuring that providers can:

- Recruit and retain qualified educators with salaries that reflect their expertise
- Expand access to infants and toddlers, the age groups with the highest demand and lowest funding
- Invest in accreditation, curriculum, and professional development that elevate program quality
- Support families facing instability, including those experiencing homelessness, DCF involvement, or language barriers
- Build long-term sustainability so centers can focus on children, not constant financial crisis management

Connecticut families deserve a system that does not depend on underpaid educators and overstretched programs. Sustainable funding is the foundation for a stronger workforce, stronger school readiness outcomes, and stronger local economies.

I urge you to prioritize investments that reach community-based programs—the centers doing the most intensive work with the fewest resources. We know what our children need. What we lack are the stable, predictable funds to provide it.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to strengthening Connecticut's early childhood landscape. I welcome any opportunity to participate in future conversations, pilots, or working groups as the Endowment moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tyshell Gore  
Owner/Director, The Learning Center