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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

**Testimony of Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood
Before the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
H.B. 5049 – An Act Concerning Family Child Care Services Administered by the Federal
Government, on Federal Property or for the Benefit of Military Families
Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

Good morning, Senator Marx, Representative Nolan, Senator Gordon, Representative Vail, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am submitting testimony concerning **H.B. 5049 – An Act Concerning Family Child Care Services Administered by the Federal Government, on Federal Property or for the Benefit of Military Families.**

The Office of Early Childhood supports the intent of H.B. 5049. This bill would exempt family child care providers from OEC licensing requirements. The reason for this exemption proposal is that family child care providers operating on federal property or for the benefit of military families undergo a rigorous federal military certification process and ongoing monitoring. It would be duplicative and burdensome to require these specific family child care providers to be licensed by the state as well.

This bill reflects the considerations being made across the nation of other state licensure requirements for military spouses who often lose money, time, and opportunities to build their individual careers due to multiple moves to support their military member. Additionally, affording the opportunity for more Child Development Homes in Connecticut would add capacity to the child care infrastructure in the state.

A military Child Development Home would need to be certified by either the Naval Subbase Groton or Coast Guard Station New London Child and Youth Programs. Extensive orientation training is required prior to receiving licensure and opening services to families and children. This training includes CPR/First Aid; administration of medication, developmentally appropriate practices, positive guidance, child and adult food care program; health and safety; developmentally appropriate environment; and business practices.

The Child Development Home is inspected prior to certification by the installation Child and Youth Programs, the installation Fire Inspector and Preventive Medicine. The Child Development Home is inspected monthly for fire, safety, sanitation, and preventive medicine.

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Monthly visits are also made to observe and provide coaching and support. Additionally, Child Development Homes undergo one annual Multidisciplinary Inspection and one inspection conducted by the Commander, Navy Installation Command (CNCI). Regulations limit the number of children in care, which reflect Connecticut's child/staff ratios. Background checks are required of the provider and household members over age 18. Immunizations, based on the Center for Disease Control guidelines, are required of the provider and all household members.

These requirements and processes meet and exceed our OEC state licensing requirements.

Thank you for your time and attention. The OEC is committed to work together—with legislators, the executive branch, providers, advocates, and parents—to better serve our families with young children.

About the OEC

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) advances a two-generation family-centered approach in our pursuit of optimal health, safety and learning outcomes for young children. Through our core programs, we support infant and toddler care, preschool, after-school care, child care and youth camp licensing, home visiting, and early intervention to address developmental delays. The OEC is working toward better coordinated, cost-effective services that support Connecticut's youngest children and families.