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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of  
Early Childhood

Beth Bye  
*Commissioner*

**Testimony of Beth Bye, Commissioner  
Office of Early Childhood  
Before the Appropriations Committee  
Re: H.B. No. 7147 An Act Making Deficiency Appropriations  
For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019  
Friday, April 26, 2019**

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Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Rep. Lavielle and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am here today to testify before this committee concerning federal funding for the Care 4 Kids program.

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood advances a family-centered approach to support young children and their families. 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. OEC is working toward better coordinated, cost-effective services that yield measurable results for Connecticut's youngest children and families.

I am here at today's state agency deficiency hearing due to a budget technicality. As announced in the spring of 2018, Congress approved \$2.4 billion in additional annual funding under the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). This new federal funding was intended to make it possible for states to comply with new, but costly, requirements under the 2014 CCDF Reauthorization. Connecticut received an additional \$14 million of revenue respective to this newly approved funding, bringing our total CCDF federal award to \$67 million. However, when the State budget passed in June 2018, the OEC's budget did not include an increase in its Care 4 Kids appropriation; therefore, OEC has not had the authority to spend the new federal funds, nor the ability to comply with the new federal requirements. Because of the unique funding structure related to CCDF, this request to appropriate \$9.3 million must be treated as a deficiency even though the funding has been received by the State as revenue.

With this new federal funding, the Office of Early Childhood is committed to implementing critical measures to meet the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) requirements – all which better address the needs of children and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to take any questions.

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