



Ned Lamont  
*Governor*  
Susan Bysiewicz  
*Lt. Governor*

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye  
*Commissioner*

**Testimony of Beth Bye, Commissioner  
Office of Early Childhood  
Before the Human Services Committee  
Re: SB 1080 – An Act Concerning a Two-Generational Initiative  
Thursday, March 21, 2019**

---

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Logan, Representative Case and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Beth Bye, Commissioner of Early Childhood. I am here to testify in support of SB 1080, An Act Concerning a Two-Generational Initiative.

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood embraces the charge given by this legislative body in its enabling statute to be family-centered in our pursuit of optimal health, safety and learning outcomes for young children. SB 1080 reaffirms the state's commitment of connecting systems to better address the needs of the whole family. A two-generational approach recognizes that the health and economic well-being of the caregiver is critical to the well-being and success of the child. At its core, our agency embodies this approach to serve the entire family unit.

This bill establishes a Family Economic Success Cabinet that would attempt to increase the impact of state programs on families, reduce redundancies, find cost savings, and advance racial and socio-economic equity. We support the intent of the Family Economic Success Cabinet, particularly its spirit of collaboration and alignment of cross-agency goals. However, we would like more information about how the Cabinet and the 2Gen Advisory Board will work in tandem to avoid duplicative efforts and achieve the legislation's goals. We also suggest the Cabinet include a co-chair to sit alongside OPM.

This bill strengthens family voice and firmly cements families as partners in this initiative. When parents are brought to the table as peers, policymakers have a better understanding of what barriers are preventing families from thriving and how programs can work together to respond to whole family needs. We must acknowledge parents as change agents of their own lives.

Lastly, this bill emphasizes the need to remove barriers for cross-agency collaboration, particularly in the area of data sharing. It mandates the Office of the Attorney General to develop a uniform data sharing protocol. We appreciate the desire for data to be used safely and securely across state government to better provide families with the resources to be stable and successful. We look forward to being partners in this conversation.

OEC is committed to Connecticut's Two-Generational Initiative, not just in words but actions. Our agency is working across siloes to address the health, education and workforce needs of Connecticut families.

In closing, I would like to thank the Human Services Committee for the opportunity to promote the Two-Generational Initiative. I look forward to working with all stakeholders on the necessary changes to make this an even more effective piece of legislation.