



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**



Connecticut Office of  
Early Childhood

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Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

Linda Goodman  
Acting Commissioner

**Testimony of Linda Goodman, Acting Commissioner**  
**Office of Early Childhood**  
**Before the Committee on Children**  
**Re: HB 767 – An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

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Good morning Representative Urban, Senator Moore, Senator Suzio, Representative Zupkus and members of the Children’s Committee, I am Linda Goodman, Acting Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood. I am sorry I was unable to join you in person, but I would like to offer you written testimony today regarding Raised Bill 767, An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity.

The OEC appreciates the intent of this bill. Connecticut, like the rest of the nation, faces an obesity crisis and measures such as this bill contribute to reducing the child obesity rate across the state. The Office of Early childhood respectfully shares the following comments on this bill.

If there are additional requirements regarding physical activity and use of electronic devises, we urge the committee to be mindful of the need to provide accommodations for children with a physical disability and/or special needs, particularly those who need to use augmentative communication devices.

We also suggest that any reference to “child care center” and “group child care home” be preceded by the word “licensed” to clarify that this bill only applies to licensed entities.

The committee should keep in mind that while we support the intent of this bill, any changes to the bill that significantly increases the regulatory responsibilities of our child care licensing staff to monitor and follow-up with issues of noncompliance may be beyond the capacity of our current licensing staff to enforce. Additionally, we urge the committee to be cognizant of the potential financial impact to and capacity of programs to comply with additional complex requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 767.

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