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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 Children  
SB. 122 - An Act Requiring Parental Notification by Child Care Facilities  
of Certain Incidents Involving Children  
February 22, 2022**

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Good afternoon, Senator Anwar, Representative Linehan, Senator Kelly, Representative Dauphinais and distinguished members of the Committee on Children. My name is Beth Bye. I am Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am here today to testify concerning **S.B. 122 - An Act Requiring Parental Notification by Child Care Facilities of Certain Incidents Involving Children.**

The current regulations that govern licensed child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes have significant program requirements pertaining to the documenting and reporting of incidents that result in an injury or illness to an enrolled child. The OEC supports this bill's intention to strengthen those existing requirements and we look forward to working with the Committee to ensure the regulations and bill language are in alignment.

The recently revised regulations for licensed family child care homes require providers to maintain an incident log for each enrolled child to record accidents, incidents leading to a report made to the Department of Children and Families, injuries, illnesses, or unusual behaviors that occur, and observations of the child made by the provider during business hours. The incident log shall include a description of the accident, incident, injury, illness or unusual behavior, the date, time of occurrence, location, and any action taken by the provider including, but not limited to, whether the child was transported to a hospital emergency room, doctor's office, or other medical facility. Family child care home providers are also required to notify the OEC no later than the next business day of the death of any enrolled child or an injury that results in a diagnosed fracture, diagnosed second- or third-degree burn, diagnosed concussion, or the child being admitted to a hospital. These conditions for reporting are consistent with the federal requirements of the reauthorization of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

The current regulations for licensed child care centers and group child care homes have similar requirements. The OEC is moving forward with changes to the regulations for child care centers

and group child care homes so that the language is consistent with the language in the family child care home regulations and the CCDBG requirements.

Without changing the intent of this legislation, the OEC suggests, where applicable, the language in this bill be modified to be consistent with the current language for family child care homes specified above. The OEC would be happy to participate in this process.

In addition, the proposed requirement for programs to create a written record of incidents that results in an injury or illness not later than one hour after the incident occurs may be overly difficult for programs to comply in certain situations. The staff's immediate response to an incident is often focused on the care of the child, responding to medical personnel, reaching out to parents, etc. which would prevent them from completing such a report in one hour.

Thank you for giving me the time to testify. We are happy to answer any questions and to meet with you to further discuss in efforts to pass the best bill possible.

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***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.*