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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 Labor and Public Employees Committee  
S.B. 1121 – An Act Concerning Care 4 Kids Provider Rights  
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

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Good afternoon, Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am submitting testimony concerning **S.B. 1121 – An Act Concerning Care 4 Kids Provider Rights**.

After a review of the language in the bill as written, we had questions and think the current language is overly broad and could potentially capture our state funded early care and education programs. These programs include School Readiness, Child Day Care, Smart Start, and state-funded Head Start.

The Office of Early Childhood, Office of Policy and Management, and SEIU met February 28 to discuss the bill language. SEIU explained the context and intent of the bill language. We all agreed to work together on JFS language to mutually resolve all questions and concerns.

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.

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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.*