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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 Public Health Committee  
H.B. 6732 – An Act Requiring Inspections of Lead Paint and Lead in the Water  
in Nursery Schools and Preschools  
Monday, March 6, 2023**

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Good morning, Senator Anwar, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Somers, Representative Klarides-Ditria, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am submitting testimony concerning **H.B. 6732 – An Act Requiring Inspections of Lead Paint and Lead in the Water in Nursery Schools and Preschools**.

The OEC appreciates the intent of this bill. It is unclear, however, if the testing is being proposed for *licensed* nursery schools and preschools. If so, there are already requirements in place that are monitored by the OEC.

- Licensed child care centers and group child care homes are required by Section 19a-79-7a(c)(3(A) of the Regulations to test all water supplies every two (2) years for lead content.
- Licensed child care centers and group child care homes are prohibited by Section 19a-79-7a(e)(13) of the Regulations from having any toxic materials in areas accessible to children. Full comprehensive lead paint testing is required prior to approval of any space constructed in whole or in part prior to 1978. In addition, ongoing lead hazard identification is part of the routine inspection process.

Any exceedance of limits regarding either lead water or lead paint is corrected in conjunction with DPH and/or local health as appropriate.

The OEC does, however, support the notification to parents and guardians regarding any exceedance of limits in lead water and lead paint.

Lastly, there may be concern regarding additional costs to programs for additional testing above and beyond what is already required.

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.