

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-932

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFF QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR

Title: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.

Vote Date: 3/15/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/6/2019

File No.: 323

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Staff qualifications effective dates extended in phases due to compensation issues causing delays and the types of early childhood programs affected needed to be defined.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE LCO NO. 6150:

The Substitute Language made technical revisions and added language to include a childhood development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner and twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education , and (II) regionally accredited.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood: In support of moving out the staff qualifications compliance dates for state-funded early care and education programs. The Commissioner stated "The Office of Early Childhood acknowledges that fundamental pieces need to be addressed to realistically meet the staff qualifications goal, including additional higher education scholarship dollars, increased access to colleges, and better compensation."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

KinderCare Education, Mary Cecchinato, Executive Director, Torrington Child Care Center, Edie Reichard, Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care, Carol Smith, Executive Director, Griffin Child Development Center of Southington, Jill Marini, Regional Director of five Early Learning Centers, Dr. Susan Radway, Executive Director, Riverfront Children's Center, Catherine Vanicky, Owner & Director, Honey Bear Learning Center, Jill Lamberti, Director: All are in support of the pushing out the existing

dates for staff requirements because the present regulation would cause many programs to be out of compliance, they have difficulty hiring qualified degreed staff due to compensation issues raised in other bills, low wages make it impossible to attract quality teachers who meet the education criteria with the current dates and it allows more time for their employees going back to school and taking classes while working full-time..

Emily Strickland, Jacqueline Valle: In support of the bill as teachers who state that compensation is the major issue.

Yutong Gao: In support of the bill as a senior at UConn's ECE program, believes high quality childcare is necessary and "one of the most intractable problems in ECE field is the shortage of qualified teachers and assistant teachers."

Carmen Carrillo, Michele Eathorne, Anik Warner: In support of bill as all are early educators with Bachelor's degrees who maintain that compensation is the major issue to hiring and retaining qualified teachers.

Stacey Zimmerman, SEIU CT State Council: In support of efforts to increase quality in early education and child care.

David Kulick, Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC): In support as the "current stated requirements for education do not coincide with the financial compensation teachers receive in early childhood positions." A delay in the current schedule of requirements would allow for compensation and scholarship availability factors to improve in the early education field.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving: In support of bill and "urge the committee to consider ways to support this pipeline, particularly for bilingual educators."

Merrill Gay, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance: In support of the bill and stated "we all believe in the importance of well trained teachers working with our most vulnerable young children, but until we solve the compensation problem, we're not going to achieve the important goal of a Bachelor's level teacher in every classroom. I ask you to see this bill as part of a package of bills that attacks the shortage of BA level teachers from several different angles."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

