

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-935

AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO DEVELOP A
Title: PROPOSED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.

Vote Date: 3/15/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/6/2019

File No.: 324

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Supporters seek a regulated standardized pay schedule for early childhood educators.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE LCO NO. 6126:

The substitute language removes the requirement that providers must implement the compensation schedule on and after July 1, 2021.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood: In support of higher compensation for early childhood educators as they should be paid on par with other education professionals. Her agency will require additional fiscal and staff resources to develop a compensation schedule.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Patrice Farquahrson, EdD., Executive Director, West Haven Child Development Center, Inc.: Supports creation of pay scale and distinguishing between child care providers and early childhood teachers as “we cannot attract the best people if we do not address the appropriate title and inequity of pay throughout the field.”

Izzi Greenberg, Executive Director, Middlesex Coalition for Children: In support of bill because quality professionals cost money and early childhood workforce who have degrees and expertise are not compensated for their skills and experience.

Lauren Halpin, Director of School Readiness program: In support of bill, her full time teachers have Bachelor's Degrees in Child Development and she would like to compensate her staff with the pay they deserve.

David Kulick, Co-President, Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAAYC): In support of increased compensation for early childhood educators for their skills and competency.

Shanette Bynum, Jennifer Dow, Marcia Iannacone, JoAnn Johnson, Kathleen Snow and Shelta Wilson, SEIU Local 2001 CSEA Members: In support of a regular compensation schedule with higher pay and seek to have family child care providers included in regulations.

Stephanie Condori, Dawn Dubay, Madison Fornal, Nneka Legerme, F. Marquez, Jessica Metcalf, Ms. Muco, Ms. Petals, Wanda Sanabria, Jacqueline Valle, Samantha Walker, Anik Warner, Marleigh Yearwood: In support of bill, they are early childcare teachers and educators who have not received raises for many years while the cost of living continues to increase, many of them are working more than one job, struggle to pay bills and are seeking pay raises and better compensation for their hard work, experience and educational backgrounds.

Wendy Waithe Simmons, Connecticut Voices for Children: In support of bill to increase compensation and retention rates with program and professionals, the bill addresses "the gross underpayment of early care and education providers that destabilizes the workforce and contributes to the dearth of childcare seen across the state."

Elizabeth Gannon, Rosanne Silver, Educators, Post University: In support of the bill as the teachers of students who are the future early education teachers, they believe the early educators should receive fair compensation. Many qualified individuals do not work in the field because they can't afford to work for such low wages.

Amy Balla, Senior, UConn Early Childhood Development and Education program: Supports the bill as a future Early Education teacher, she is concerned that the field is known for low wages and benefits. The bill would increase teacher retention rates and compensation for those who teach young children.

Dr. Susan Radway, Executive Director, The Riverfront Children's Center: In support of bill for salary standards to be developed for early childhood teachers to earn a living wage and pay adjustments to retain passionate and qualified teachers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Eddie Reichard, Director of Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc.: Asks for OCR to develop the compensation schedule. However, seeks more state funding to implement schedule.

KinderCare Education: Opposes the bill as written, concerned with development of payment schedule, ranges in education level of employees and other benefits outside of compensation schedule need to be considered.

Reported by: Kathy K. Shea

April 2, 2019