

Testimony regarding HB 6558

AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

Submitted By:

Cathy Flynn

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Cathy Flynn, and I live in Torrington.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on House Bill 6558. Today I would like to testify in support of making The Even Start program eligible to get Care4kids funds.

I am the ESL instructor in the Torrington 2 Generations program. I teach the students listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We cover topics relating to everyday living situations, learning to navigate the community, issues concerning their children and job and higher education opportunities, just to name a few.

Even Start is helpful for parents with young children for many reasons. Since parents are their child's first teacher, we can collaborate and assist them with child rearing in the United States. We can help these parents learn about cultural norms and what is expected in our educational system. We can aid them in working through any barriers they may encounter. We can provide an environment where they can ask questions and share concerns and where they may find classmates who are experiencing the same things.

The early childhood programs are educational and fun. They provide a welcoming and safe place for the children to gain much needed social interactions and learning experiences in English.

It is important to educate both the parents and the children so they can assimilate more easily into our communities and schools. By providing funding, we can continue our successes for the parents and their children, both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for considering this issue.