

March 7, 2021

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee,

My name is Sierra Ransom and I live in New Haven. My child was enrolled at the Elizabeth Celotto Child Care Center, a partner agency with United Way of Greater New Haven's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership funds included in the Governor's budget.

As a member of the Early Head Start Policy Council, I see how this funding is being spent by the program to provide services for children and families. I review program reports and budgets during Policy Council meetings.

I also know how this program has helped my family. For those who don't know, the Elizabeth Celotto Child Care Center caters to teenage parents attending high school. Because I was a parent who was a minor, my daughter's enrollment process was based on my Mother's financial status. However, my mom was unable to work for medical reasons. As a result, my family was denied Care 4 Kids Funding.

However, my daughter was still able to receive child care through the carve-out funding. Without carve-dollars, I would not have finished high school. After graduating high school, I was able to pursue a college education and graduated last Spring. I hope that more families will be given an opportunity to benefit from this funding and I fully support the restoration of funding for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sierra Ransom".

Sierra Ransom

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