

Vermont Early Educators United – AFT Vermont

March 12, 2015 – House Appropriations Committee

Testimony from Home Based Child Care Providers (submitted in writing)

- Emily Creighton-Pryer, Bradford, VT
- Joey Claflin, Springfield, VT
- Anissa Delauri, Rutland VT
- Judy Lariviere, Springfield, VT
- Deborah Lowe, Chester, VT
- Carlene Lyons, White River Junction, VT
- Vicky Palmer, Randolph
- Nan Reid, Burlington, VT
- Judy Rosner, Vernon, VT
- Theresa Stevens, Danville
- Stacy Stillson, Springfield, VT
- Stephanie Wheelock, Rutland VT
- Melanie Zinn, Vernon, VT



Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide written testimony. We are submitting this testimony as home-based child care providers. We write to ask you to support Vermont's working families by ensuring that there are no waiting lists for childcare subsidies in Vermont. The Governor's proposed budget level-funds the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) subsidy and creates the opportunity to allow for waiting lists for this important funding that gives working families access to child care. This access to child care also improves family stability and supports children's growth and development.

We all know that children thrive in a nurturing, stable environment and that when that stability is not available, children can suffer both in the short term and with long term effects. The CCFAP subsidy ensures that parents can provide in the best ways possible for their children – by having a job and by making sure the children have reliable, quality child care.

We are alarmed to see that you may even be considering a cut to this critical subsidy, with a mention on your "ugly budget" list. We hope that brainstorm list does not result in any cuts to the CCFAP subsidy or any ability for the state to create a waiting list for families who need access to child care.

We also want to note that cutting or even level funding the CCFAP subsidy means fewer families will be eligible to receive this critical subsidy because the program will not be current with the Federal Poverty Level. An additional \$350,000 is needed just to keep eligibility current.

Vermont's Working Families need access to quality child care. The CCFAP subsidy helps those families obtain the care they need. We know that investment in children pays off many times over. Vermont should increase this investment through the CCFAP subsidy so that more families are eligible for the funding and providers can be supported in providing high quality care. We all want our children to be nurtured and educated well – and the CCFAP subsidy is a key tool in Vermont's toolbox for supporting working families, their children, and those who provide care for them.