



Parents Leading for Educational Equity  
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House Finance Committee

From: Parents Leading for Educational Equity

Re: Testimony in Support of Bills H7123

DATE: May 9, 2024

Honorable Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Greetings members of the House Committee on Finance, my name is Ramona Santos Torres, I am the executive director of [Parents Leading for Educational Equity](#) (PLEE). We are a grassroots, family advocacy organization fighting for equitable systems of care for families and children. On behalf of PLEE and the parents we represent, I want to express **support** for H7123, which addresses critical funding provisions for childcare educators and staff.

As a parent, advocate for education and early childhood development, I believe that investing in our educators is paramount to ensuring the well-being and future success of our children and families. Childcare educators play a fundamental role in shaping the lives of young children and laying the foundation for their future academic and social-emotional development. However, despite their invaluable contributions, many childcare educators and staff face financial challenges that impact their ability to provide quality care and education.

Bill H7123 recognizes the importance of supporting childcare educators and staff by providing essential funding for their childcare needs. By ensuring that eligible childcare educators and staff receive necessary childcare assistance without copayments, the bill not only acknowledges their dedication and hard work but also promotes their financial stability and well-being.

Furthermore, the inclusion of funding for early intervention services further underscores the critical role that childcare professionals play in supporting children with developmental delays and disabilities. By providing funding for early intervention staff, we are not only ensuring equitable access to services but also strengthening the early childhood support system as a whole.

It is essential to recognize that investing in childcare educators and staff is an investment in the future of our children and communities. By providing them with the support they need, we are creating an environment where all children have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

I urge you to support Bill H7123, as it represents a significant step towards recognizing and valuing the essential contributions of childcare educators and staff by ensuring access to vital childcare assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ramona Santos Torres

Executive Director

Parents Leading for Educational Equity