

## Rebecca Buck

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**From:** Theresa Utton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 11:03 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Buck  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of Increased Funding for Child Care Financial Assistance Program  
**Attachments:** Testimony to Budget Hearing for CCFAP.docx

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**From:** Rosemary Moser [<mailto:woodsprytearts@vermontel.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 9:41 PM  
**To:** Theresa Utton; Peter Fagan  
**Cc:** 'Robin Chesnut-Tangerman'; [kimbjm@aol.com](mailto:kimbjm@aol.com); Brian Collamore; Peg Flory  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Increased Funding for Child Care Financial Assistance Program

Thank you again to the legislators who heard the testimony of concerned Vermonters in the Rutland Region this evening. A copy of my testimony is attached. High-quality early childhood investments provide both short- and long-term economic benefits. **They have been found to be the most effective investments the government can make, even during difficult fiscal times.**

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Moser  
Middletown Springs, VT

***"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."--Pablo Picasso***

I've been an Early Educator for nearly 35 years. For over a decade now, I have been a trainer of early educators. I am the parent of a grown, recently married daughter, who has been getting her college education in Vermont and has a good job with BCBS of Vermont. She & her husband have purchased a house in Vermont. As they decide whether or not to have children of their own, I am concerned that the lack of quality care for infants, toddlers, & preschoolers in our state will negatively impact their decision, or even lead them to decide to leave the state.

I was drawn to this field because I believed 35 years ago, and still believe now, that high-quality early childhood experiences and environments would foster the growth of resilient, emotionally mature, prepared-to-learn young people who would become caring, healthy, civic-minded, productive and contributing adults who would, in turn, help build a stronger society. I was moved by what I learned about how many of the prisoners filling our jails had suffered abuse and neglect as young children. Research has only continued to bear out my early perceptions.

We now know that about 90% of human brain development occurs by the age of 5, before children have gone off to Kindergarten. The "Ounce of Prevention Fund" tells us that:

"The achievement gap appears long before children reach kindergarten – in fact it can become evident as early as age nine months. And at-risk children who don't receive a high-quality early childhood education are:

- 25% more likely to drop out of school
- 40% more likely to become a teen parent
- 50% more likely to be placed in special education
- 60% more likely to never attend college
- 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime

Early childhood programs are the most cost-effective way to ensure the healthy development of children...and offer the greatest returns to society." [1] Studies show savings range from about \$3-\$12 per dollar invested. [2]

Vermont already has a shortage of childcare openings for all of the families needing it statewide. The Childcare Family Assistance Program is currently based on childcare market rates from a decade ago. This means that parents who already need help paying for the costs of childcare must pay the difference, or else childcare providers themselves must take the loss. This is not a sustainable model. Childcare providers receive higher reimbursement rates through the CCFAP based on how many STARS they have earned in Vermont's childcare quality improvement system. Fully funding the Childcare Family Assistance Program will go a long way toward improving the availability and quality of care for our youngest Vermonters.

I am therefore asking for a \$9.2 million dollar increase for CCFAP this legislative session.

Thank you for your time and your work in the legislature.

[1] <https://www.theounce.org/what-we-do/policy-and-advocacy/early-education-care/>

[2] <https://live-penn-impact.pantheon.io/wp-content/uploads/2016/2015/06/Why-Invest-High-Return-on-Investment.pdf>

## **Addendum**

<https://www.theounce.org/resources/advocacy-tools/talking-points/>

### **High-quality early education programs are proven to:**

- Help children enter kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed in school
- Increase high-school graduation rates and college attendance
- Reduce teen pregnancy rates, crime, and other social problems
- Reduce long-term social costs for special education, child welfare, and public assistance

### **The achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers is apparent by 18 months of age.**

- The good news is that we know that early learning programs significantly narrow this achievement gap.

### **High-quality early childhood investments provide both short- and long-term economic benefits.**

- They are the most effective investments the government can make, even during difficult fiscal times.
- Not investing in at-risk children through early childhood programs poses a profound threat to the future of our economy.
- Fast forward 20 years without adequate investments in early childhood service, and we are left with a less educated workforce that has a lower earning potential, is making fewer tax contributions, and is creating a greater need for spending on preventable social services.
- While we focus on balancing the budget and reducing the deficit, we must recognize that early childhood programs are cost-effective investments that are critical to the country and state's continuing economic growth.