

Statement of Support

Parent Child Centers 2019 Public Hearing – Springfield

Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

February 25, 2019

I am submitting this statement in support of the Parent Child Centers; specifically, an increase of \$8 million in Master Grant funding over the next three years to close the current salary and funding gap. Starting this year with \$1.5 million to the Master Grant and \$1.5 million in one time funding.

A major concern is the disparity in wages and benefits between PCC staff and their counterparts in education and state government. The dedicated staff who are entrusted to carry out the PCC mission deserve to be compensated fairly, and our centers need the assurances that they can offer a competitive package as part of their staff recruiting efforts to attract the most skilled professionals.

Likewise, PCC programs and facilities require and deserve adequate operating budgets in order to continue to meet the needs of our communities. The Springfield Area Parent Child Center's wide-ranging services include home visits, outreach, and referrals; parent education information and classes; family events and resources; playgroups, child care and preschool programs. Together, these and other related services combine to support the mission of "Building strong communities, one family at a time."

Our state's forward-thinking creation of the Parent Child Center Network almost 30 years ago is to be commended. However, the network also needs to be nurtured if it is to continue providing the research-based and proven-effective services that are helping to address and mitigate the Adverse Childhood Experiences that rob children, families, and communities in so many ways, and over generations.

As a parent, grandparent, community resident, and a new member of the Board of the Springfield Area Parent Child Center, I strongly urge your committees to fully fund the PCCs for the sake of all our children, parents, and families.

Thank you.

Joan Grossman
Chester, VT