

February 9th, 2020

Testimony

Farm to Early Childhood

My name is Jacquelyn Reno and I am a life-long Vermont resident, a parent to 2 children, and an Early Childhood Educator. We know that we need \$500,000 annually in the Farm to School and Early Childhood program. For FY2021, please work toward getting us to that \$500,000 goal, and at the very least, please ensure that funding for Farm to School does not decrease from \$231,000 base. I support this for so many reasons but specifically because I know that people who eat fresh foods have better health outcomes, I see it all the time with the children and families that I work with. Not only would this save Vermonters money on healthcare down the line due to the healthy habits that Farm to School for Early Childhood forms, but this would also increase business for local farmers (\$1.60 to them for every dollar investment!). This builds knowledge of the food system for children and their families, and will add strength and value to Vermont's very special food industry. Thank you.

Jacquelyn Reno